CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

SATURDAY ▸ JANUARY 31, 2026 ▸ VOL: 11 ▸ ISSUE: 197 ▸ PAGES 12 ▸ ₹2.00

IBC WORLD NEWS
CH ABC
Certified English Daily

Trump Warns Britain Over China Ties as Starmer Seeks Economic Reset P8

PM Modi Hails Historic India–EU Free Trade Agreement P9

P11 Senegal Coach Pape Thiaw Banned, Fined After AFCON Final Chaos

www.ibcworldnews.com | BENGALURU ▸ HUBBALLI ▸ MANGALURU ▸ MYSURU ▸ KALABURAGI | cityhilights.news@gmail.com

Sunetra Pawar likely to be new Maharashtra Deputy CM

Sunetra Pawar is reportedly set to become Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister following her husband Ajit Pawar's tragic demise

MUMBAI

Sunetra Pawar is expected to take oath as Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister on Saturday, party sources said. The move comes just two days after the sudden death of senior NCP leader and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, which left a major leadership gap in the party and the state government.

A meeting of the Nationalist Congress Party legislature wing has been called, where Sunetra Pawar is likely to be elected as its leader. Senior minister Chhagan Bhujbal said many party leaders have openly supported her name for the post. He added that Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has indicated he has no objection, provided the party follows due process.

Sunetra Pawar is currently a Rajya Sabha member and not part of the state legislature. The Baramati Assembly seat fell vacant after Ajit Pawar's death in a recent plane crash. Party leaders said selecting a legislature party leader is the first formal step before confirming the Deputy Chief Minister's appointment. Sources also said Sunetra Pawar may be given the Excise and Sports portfolios, while the Finance Department could remain with the Chief Minister. Senior leaders Praful Patel and Sunil Tatkare are reviewing legal and procedural matters, including whether any mourning period norms apply.

Earlier, Praful Patel met the Chief Minister in Mumbai to discuss filling the vacant post and other cabinet responsibilities. He said the party would also consider the views of the Pawar family and public sentiment before finalising decisions.

Ajit Pawar's passing has also renewed talk of a possible reunion between different NCP factions, making the coming days important for Maharashtra politics. Observers say stability in government will be watched.

With the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leadership backing Sunetra Pawar to fill the vacuum created by the death of her husband Ajit Pawar, the 63-year-old Rajya Sabha MP is set to become Maharashtra's first woman Deputy Chief Minister on Saturday. Though she married into the Pawar family for over four decades, Sunetra largely remained away from active politics until recently.

BJP's 'Scam Lords' jibe at CM, DCM sparks row; KPCC files case

BENGALURU

The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) has filed a complaint with the Cyber Crime Police Station in Bengaluru against the official X handle of the Karnataka BJP for allegedly posting defamatory content targeting Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, and other ministers.

Based on the complaint submitted by the KPCC's legal team, police have registered a case and initiated an investigation. The complaint relates to a post carrying images of the CM, DCM, and other ministers under the caption "Scam Lords," which accused the Congress government of looting the state. The KPCC alleged that the content was misleading, malicious, and aimed at tarnishing the reputations of leaders without evidence, while also creating confusion in society.

In the post, BJP Karnataka claimed it exposed the "scam empire" of the Congress government, using hashtags critical of the ruling party. Police officials confirmed that the case has been accepted and further examination is underway to determine any legal violations.

KPCC contended that the content was misleading, malicious and aimed at tarnishing reputations without substantiation

Meanwhile, Karnataka BJP president BY Vijayendra demanded a proper investigation into an alleged excise scam worth over Rs 6,000 crore, calling for a probe by either a sitting High Court judge or the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). He also sought the resignation of Excise Minister Ramappa Timmapur. Vijayendra said the BJP and JD(S) are jointly staging protests near Vidhana Soudha against what they termed a "corrupt" Congress government.

Speaking to the media here, Vijayendra said that the BJP and Janata Dal (Secular) are jointly staging a protest near the Mahatma Gandhi statue at Vidhana Soudha against the "corrupt" Congress government.

"Rs 6,000 crore scam wherein the excise minister and his family members are involved, and proof has already emerged, but CM Siddaramaiah is not willing to discuss this on the floor of the house. Investigation by the CBI or a sitting high court judge is the only answer to the entire scam. The Siddaramaiah government is trying to cover up the entire scam and create drama. Outside the house and inside the house, we are going to demand the resignation of the excise minister," Vijayendra told reporters here.

Uncertainty Grows Over Manipur Govt Formation

NEW DELHI

Political uncertainty continues in Manipur as President's Rule in the state is set to complete one year next month, with no clear indication yet on when a popular government may be restored. The 60-member Manipur Assembly has remained under suspended animation since President's Rule was imposed on February 13, 2025, following prolonged ethnic violence between Meitei and Kuki communities. The Assembly's term runs until March 2027. Sources said the BJP leadership has held several rounds of discussions with party MLAs from both communities. The party's Northeast coordinator Sambit Patra has reportedly met Meitei and Kuki legislators separately. In December last year, senior BJP leader B.L. Santhosh and Patra held a joint meeting with more than 30 BJP MLAs, including Speaker Thokchom Satyabrata Singh and former Chief Minister N. Biren Singh.

HOMAGE TO MAHATMA

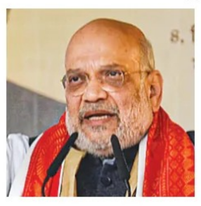
Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi at Vidhana Soudha on Martyrs' Day, honoring the country's freedom struggle. Speaker Basavaraj Horatti, Ministers Bosaraju, H.K. Patil, and other dignitaries were present to join the solemn tribute, commemorating the sacrifice of India's martyrs. ➤ CH PHOTO

Shah Blames Congress for Assam Demographic Change

DIBRUGARH

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday alleged that Assam's population pattern changed sharply during years of Congress rule and said the BJP government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is working to correct the situation. He urged voters to give the BJP a third straight term in the state to stop illegal infiltration and protect tribal identity.

Shah was speaking at the closing ceremony of the 10th Mising Youth Festival at Kareng Chapori. He claimed that the number of infiltrators increased significantly in the past and that they had become dominant in several districts. According to him, the BJP governments in Assam have taken firm steps to remove encroachments and safeguard land. He praised the Mising community for preserving their culture and preventing illegal settlers from moving into Upper Assam.



Shah said their hard-working lifestyle has acted as a strong social barrier without the need for violence. Referring to the Bogibeel Bridge over the Brahmaputra, Shah said the project stands as a symbol of development and credited local communities for their contribution.

Policy grants 12 days of paid menstrual leave annually to female staff, aiming to boost well-being

Education Dept Introduces Menstrual Leave Policy

BENGALURU

In a landmark move, the Karnataka Education Department has formally notified 12 days of paid menstrual leave for women employees in government institutions. The notification, issued by Commissioner Vikas Suralkar on January 28, operationalizes the state government's November 2025 decision. The policy applies to women aged 18 to 52, acknowledging that menstruation can affect productivity, comfort, and morale. According to the departmental circular, the initiative aims to "improve efficiency, morale, and overall well-being" in the workforce.

Officials noted that the policy ensures procedural simplicity while respecting privacy and dignity. Observers say the move could set a precedent for gender-sensitive workplace practices across the state.

Employees and unions are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the framework to ensure smooth implementation. The Education Department has asked all government institutions to align their HR and payroll systems with the new policy promptly.

This development has sparked discussions on broader workplace inclusivity, with advocates hoping other departments and private organizations may adopt similar measures in the near future.

Key provisions of the circular include:

- **No carryover:** Unused menstrual leave cannot be transferred month to month.
- **No medical certificate required:** Women can avail leave without furnishing proof.
- **Mandatory for employers:** Menstrual leave must be granted and treated like casual leave.
- **Separate attendance marking:** Leave is recorded distinctly in attendance registers.
- **Cannot be combined with other leave:** It cannot be merged with casual or earned leave.

Confident Group owner CJ Roy dies by suicide at Bengaluru office

BENGALURU

Dr. C.J. Roy, 57, chairman of Confident Group, was found dead at his office in central Bengaluru on Friday, sending shockwaves through business circles. Police said Roy was discovered with a gunshot wound inside his Anepalya office and was declared dead at the spot after staff alerted authorities.

Senior police officers and forensic teams reached the office and began an investigation. Earlier in the day, Roy had reportedly been questioned by the Enforcement Directorate. Preliminary findings suggest he was alone when the incident occurred.

Police have registered the case as a suspected suicide and said no clear motive has been established so far. Officials stated it is not yet known whether a suicide note was left. A post-mortem examination has been ordered, and investigators are reviewing Roy's personal and professional background. Family members, colleagues, and close associates are being questioned as part of the probe.

Modi Honors Gandhi, Promotes Swadeshi Progress

NEW DELHI

PM Narendra Modi paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on Friday, marking the Father of the Nation's death anniversary, observed nationwide as Martyrs' Day. At Rajghat in New Delhi, Modi remembered Gandhi's life, legacy, and his enduring message of peace, justice, and freedom. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister highlighted Gandhi's emphasis on 'swadeshi'—the promotion of locally made goods and self-reliance—as a guiding principle for India's development. Modi said the concept of swadeshi remains central to the government's vision of a developed, self-reliant nation. "His personality and deeds will forever continue to inspire the people of the country to walk the path of duty," Modi wrote in a post on X.

QUICK READ

NCB busts major drug racket across states

AHMEDABAD

The Narcotics Control Bureau busted a major interstate drug racket and seized 35 kg of MD drugs worth about Rs ten crore in Surat. Officers also uncovered an illegal drug laboratory in Mysuru and seized over five hundred kg of chemicals. Three people including mastermind Mahindra Kumar Vishnoi were arrested. Officials recovered opium, cash, and chemicals from his house. The NCB said Vishnoi planned drug production while in jail and later set up the lab in an industrial area. The unit was disguised as a cleaning chemical factory. Further investigation is underway. Officials said raids may continue in cities.

SC declares menstrual health a fundamental right

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on January 30, 2026, ruled that the right to menstrual health is part of the fundamental right to life and dignity under Article 21. The court emphasized that lack of menstrual hygiene management (MHM) in schools harms students' dignity, autonomy, and education. It directed all schools, government and private, to provide functional toilets, sanitary napkins through vending machines, and 'MHM corners' with essential supplies. Private schools failing to comply risk de-recognition. The judgment also highlighted educating male students and teachers about menstruation to prevent harassment.

IRAN–EU TERROR STANDOFF

Iran EU tensions rise after terror tag move

NEW DELHI

Tensions between Iran and Western nations rose sharply after Iran announced it would label the armed forces of European Union countries as "terrorist groups." The move comes after the EU officially declared Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) a terrorist organisation.

Iran called the EU decision hostile and warned of consequences. Iranian officials said the European action crossed a line and would damage diplomatic ties. In response, Tehran said countries supporting the move would face reciprocal measures.

Meanwhile, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said there are currently no firm plans for direct talks with the United States, even though Iran remains open to "fair and equitable" negotiations. He made the remarks during a visit to Turkey, where leaders are trying to reduce regional tensions.

In Britain, Prime Minister Keir Starmer said the UK is working with allies to ensure Iran does not develop nuclear weapons. The United Nations has also urged dialogue to prevent further escalation.

Reports said a US Navy destroyer docked at Israel's Eilat port as part of planned cooperation, while Washington continues its "maximum pressure" policy on Tehran.

Iran has warned it would target American bases if attacked. At the same time, regional powers like Turkey and Qatar are attempting to mediate.

With strong statements coming from all sides, diplomatic efforts now face a serious test as fears grow over possible military confrontation.

QUICK READ

KIA Launches Personalised Passenger Service

BENGALURU

Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has launched Care by BLR, a personalised passenger service brand designed to elevate the airport experience with premium, end-to-end assistance. Bengaluru Airport International Limited (BIAL) said the initiative underlines its focus on combining operational efficiency with human-centric service. The Care by BLR portfolio includes meet-and-assist, porter and luggage handling, valet parking, luxury limousine transfers, arrival lounge access, flower services and other curated offerings. The services cater to departure, arrival and transit passengers across both domestic and international travel at Terminals 1 and 2. Available round the clock, the services can be booked via the Pulse App, the official BLR Airport website, or at dedicated Care by BLR counters within both terminals.

Accused Arrested for Impregnating Minor

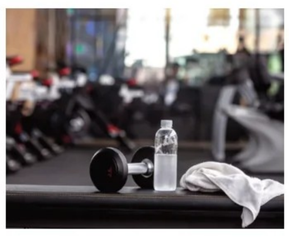
BENGALURU

In a shocking case from Islam Nagar under Ejipura police station limits, parents of a minor girl filed a complaint against Sadhiq for allegedly abducting their daughter on the pretext of marriage and impregnating her two months ago. The Ejipura police registered an FIR under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act against the accused. Sadhiq has been arrested, and investigations are underway to gather evidence and ensure justice for the victim. Authorities are probing the circumstances of the abduction and assault.

Applications Invited for Training Camp

BENGALURU

The Youth Empowerment and Sports Department has invited applications for a gym fitness training camp exclusively for Scheduled Caste youth for the year 2025–26. The camp will be held from February 1 to March 17. Interested candidates aged between 18 and 35 years can collect application forms in person from the office of the Assistant Director, Youth Empowerment and Sports Department, Bangalore Urban District, Room Nos. 17–18, Sri Kanteerava Sports Complex, Kasturba Road, Bengaluru–560001. Completed applications must be submitted by January 31. For further details, applicants may contact 9480886545 or 080-22239771, the department said.



Cong Has No Moral Right to Speak About Mahatma Gandhi: B.Y. Vijayendra

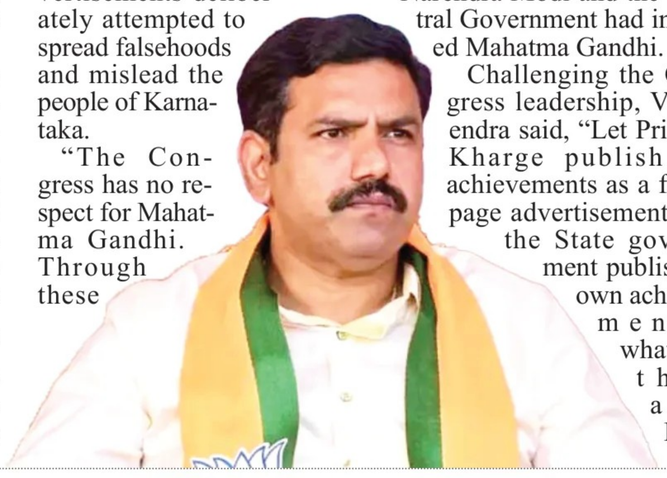
Misuse of taxpayers' money to incite people against the Central Government alleged

BENGALURU

BJP State president and MLA B.Y. Vijayendra on Friday launched a sharp attack on the Congress-led State government, accusing it of misusing public funds to publish misleading advertisements aimed at inciting people against the Central Government.

Addressing the media, Vijayendra said the State government had released front-page newspaper advertisements "filled entirely with false information". He said there would have been no objection had the Congress party issued such advertisements using its own party funds. "But misusing taxpayers' money to provoke people against the Central Government is an unpardonable crime," he alleged.

Vijayendra said the Congress government had "no sense of shame or dignity" and strongly objected to advertisements targeting the Centre over the VBG Ramji Act. He alleged that the advertisements deliberately attempted to spread falsehoods and mislead the people of Karnataka.



"The Congress has no respect for Mahatma Gandhi. Through these advertisements, the government has recklessly tried to convey completely false information and is attempting to create anarchy in the State," he said. He accused the ruling party of falsely portraying that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Central Government had insulted Mahatma Gandhi.

Challenging the Congress leadership, Vijayendra said, "Let Priyank Kharge publish his achievements as a front-page advertisement. Let the State government publish its own achievements, whatever they are. Instead of doing that, it is wrong to spread false messages against the Prime Minister and the Centre."

He further questioned the moral authority of the Congress to invoke Mahatma Gandhi's name, especially when the government, according to him, was struggling to mobilise funds for its own guarantee schemes while proposing an increase of 600–700 bar licences in the State.

"They do not have even an iota of concern for Mahatma Gandhi. These Congress leaders appear unworthy and incompetent. Perhaps Mahatma Gandhi, foreseeing such tendencies, had advised dissolving the Congress party after Independence," Vijayendra remarked.

Accusing the government of lacking achievements, he said the hurriedly convened legislative session and the publication of such advertisements were attempts to divert attention from administrative failures and shortcomings. "By wasting public money and spreading falsehoods, the government is pushing the State towards disorder. Such advertisements are dangerous to the democratic system," he alleged.

Vijayendra demanded that the money used for the advertisements, reportedly drawn from the Rural Development Department, be recovered and reimbursed from Congress party funds. "If that is done, we are ready to respond. We will not allow taxpayers' money to be squandered in this manner," he asserted.

Karnataka to Receive 'State Champion in Aviation' Award

BENGALURU

Karnataka has been selected for the prestigious 'State Champion in Aviation' award, to be conferred at Wings India–2026, the country's flagship civil aviation event. The national-level honour recognises the State's proactive and sustained contribution to the growth of India's aviation sector. The award acknowledges Karnataka's progressive policy initiatives, infrastructure development and facilitation of key airport projects, including greenfield and regional airports. It also highlights the State's strong support for regional air connectivity and its role in strengthening the overall aviation ecosystem. Through close collaboration with the Government of India, the Airports Authority of India and private stakeholders, Karnataka has significantly improved air connectivity.

Exclusive Job Fair for Persons with Disabilities Planned in K'taka: Dr Sharanaprakash Patil

BENGALURU

In a major step towards empowering persons with disabilities and integrating them into the social and economic mainstream, Karnataka will organise its first-ever exclusive job fair for persons with disabilities, Minister for Skill Development, Livelihood, Medical Education and Raichur District In-charge Dr Sharanaprakash R. Patil announced in the Legislative Assembly.

Responding to a question raised by BJP MLA Gururaj Shetty Gantihole during Question Hour, Dr Patil said the mega job fair would be organised by the Department of Skill Development and Livelihood at Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru within the next three months. Describing it as a first-of-its-kind initiative in the State, he said the programme aims to provide inclusive employment opportunities and promote economic independence among persons with disabilities.

"It will be appropriate to organise such job fairs in every district so that persons with disabilities can participate more easily and benefit from employment opportunities closer to home," the Minister said, underlining the need for decentralised efforts.

'State should host similar district-level job fairs to ensure wider participation'

Dr Patil explained that the primary objective of the initiative is to make persons with disabilities economically self-reliant. During the current financial year, the Karnataka Skill Development Corporation (KSDC) is implementing market-oriented vocational training programmes across the State specifically tailored for persons with disabilities. Under this initiative, 1,000 candidates will be provided skill training, tool kits and employment opportunities at an estimated cost of ₹3 crore.

In addition to job-oriented training, entrepreneurship development programmes are also being conducted for persons with disabilities through the Entrepreneurship Development Department. As part of policy reforms, the reservation for persons with disabilities in skill training programmes has been enhanced from 3 per cent to 5 per cent, he added. Highlighting recent outcomes, Dr Patil informed the House that a job fair organised at BMS Women's College recently saw participation from 1,200 candidates, out of whom 75 secured employment, as per official data. This, he said, demonstrated the potential of focused employment drives.

From 2017–18 to 2024–25, a total of 540 registered candidates with disabilities have undergone training under various job roles through different training institutions across Karnataka. Of these, 83 candidates have secured employment. Additionally, under the Chief Minister's Skill Karnataka scheme, 10 persons with disabilities have been provided specialised training, the Minister informed. Dr Patil reiterated the government's commitment to inclusive growth and said such initiatives would be expanded further to ensure equal opportunities for all sections of society.

Community Participation Key to Climate Action: Naveen Kumar Raju

BENGALURU

Additional Commissioner of the Bengaluru South City Corporation, Naveen Kumar Raju, on Friday called for implementing climate initiatives in line with the recommendations of the Bengaluru Climate Action Cell (CAC) through active community participation. He was inaugurating the ward-level Climate Action Plan launched by the CAC and its stakeholders at Begur.

Aimed at addressing urban climate challenges and building a more environmentally sustainable future for the city, the CAC organised a community-based awareness and consultation programme in Begur Ward. Students and teachers from the Begur Government School, apartment residents and local citizens participated actively, offering suggestions to improve environmental conditions in their neighbourhood. The initiative is being implemented under the Bengaluru Climate Action and Resilience Plan (BCAP) with technical and knowledge support from organisations including WRI India, Socratus, Hasiru Dala, Well Labs, Sensing Local and CSTEP. The collaboration seeks to develop data-driven, location-specific solutions to address grassroots-level challenges. Key proposals include installing solar-powered streetlights along walking tracks around Begur Lake and roads surrounding the historic Begur Fort. The plan also aims to tap nearly 0.37 MW of existing solar power generation potential in large apartment complexes and private schools within the ward.

Joint Session Extended Till February 4: Three-Day Debate on VB-G RAM G Act

BENGALURU

The Legislative Assembly Business Advisory Committee (BAC) has decided to extend the ongoing joint session of the State Legislature till February 4 to facilitate a detailed discussion on the VB-G RAM G Act. Speaker U.T. Khader announced the decision in the House on Friday. Earlier, the joint session was scheduled to conclude on January 31. However, following deliberations in the BAC meeting chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, it was resolved to extend the session by two additional days. As per the revised schedule, there will be no sitting on Saturday, January 31, and the House will now meet on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, from February 2 to February 4. The opposition parties have expressed their consent to the extension.

The Speaker informed the House that the extension was necessitated due to the ongoing discussion on the motion of thanks to the Governor's address, which has taken longer than anticipated. As a result, sufficient time could not be allocated earlier for a comprehensive debate on the VB-G RAM G Act. Initially, the government had planned a three-day discussion on the Act from January 29 to January 31. However, with several members still wishing to participate in the debate on the Governor's address, the schedule had to be revised. The extended session will now allow for an exclusive three-day special discussion on the VB-G RAM G Act from Monday to Wednesday. According to the BAC decision, the additional days will ensure that all interested legislators get adequate opportunity to present their views on the contentious legislation. The government maintained that the move reflects its commitment to parliamentary democracy and detailed legislative scrutiny. Speaker Khader emphasised that the decision was taken unanimously in the BAC meeting and urged members to make effective use of the extended session to engage in constructive and meaningful debate on the issues before the House.

Films Should Reflect Real Conditions of Society: CM Siddaramaiah

BENGALURU

Emphasising the social responsibility of cinema, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said films should meaningfully address the real conditions of society, including inequality, poverty, wealth disparity and the lived realities of Dalits, backward communities, farmers, workers, minorities and women.

The Chief Minister said cinema has the power to shape social consciousness and must go beyond mere entertainment.

Recalling the legacy of Dr Rajkumar's Kannada films, he noted that earlier cinema seamlessly blended popular appeal with strong social concern. Film festivals, he added, provide a unique opportunity to understand the lives, politics and cultures of people across the world, encouraging reflection on equality and justice. Without such engagement, cinema risks being reduced to escapism, he cautioned.

Reaffirming the State government's support to the film sector, Siddaramaiah said cinema should play a vital role in building a humane and inclusive society by helping erase discrimination and social divisions.

Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti described BIFFes as a matter of pride for Karnataka and praised the Chief Minister's sensitivity towards artists. Reflecting on the era of classic cinema, he expressed concern over the challenges faced by theatres in the age of television and mobile screens, and called for meaningful discussions on the issues confronting the film industry alongside film screenings.

MLA Rizwan Arshad said cinema remains one of the most powerful mediums to connect humanity. Calling BIFFes an ambitious cultural initiative of the government, he lauded actor Prakash Raj not only as a performer but also as a socially conscious and responsible citizen.

EASING TRAFFIC CONGESTION

Bengaluru's First Double-Decker Flyover Nears Completion

BENGALURU

Bengaluru's landmark double-decker flyover connecting Central Silk Board to Ragigudda is set to become fully operational by March, offering long-awaited relief to commuters navigating one of the city's most congested corridors. The final stretch between HSR Layout and BTM Layout is expected to be completed by February, with construction progressing ahead of schedule, according to the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL).

Chief Public Relations Officer of BMRCL, B.L. Yeshwanth Chavan, said the remaining works would be wrapped up by February. Once the elevated section is ready for seamless connectivity, the road will be opened to the public in consultation with the city traffic police to ensure smooth traffic integration. The project has already been partially commissioned. In July 2024, BMRCL opened the 5-km Ragigudda–Silk Board stretch, including a crucial ramp over the heavily congested Silk Board junction. However, the opposite carriageway from Silk Board to Ragigudda could not be opened earlier due to design modifications, delays in traffic police approvals and challenges during girder launching. Though the project was originally scheduled for completion by December 2025, the timeline has now been significantly advanced.

Once the remaining stretch is opened, motorists travelling from HSR Layout towards BTM Layout and Ragigudda are expected to experience smoother and faster connectivity. The full commissioning of the flyover is anticipated to substantially ease chronic traffic snarls at Silk Board, one of Bengaluru's busiest and most problematic junctions. Traffic police officials have already observed noticeable improvements following the partial opening. Vehicle movement beneath the flyover has become smoother, as traffic from HSR Layout and Hosur Road is now diverted to the elevated corridor. However, officials cautioned that traffic signals at Silk Board will continue to operate, particularly for vehicles moving towards Madiwala and other adjoining localities.

The double-decker flyover forms a key component of the Yellow Line Metro project, which necessitated the demolition of the Jayadeva flyover to accommodate an interchange station. Construction began in 2019 but was delayed multiple times due to technical and logistical challenges. During prolonged construction pauses, residents even informally used unopened sections for jogging and morning walks.

While congestion at Silk Board is expected to ease, traffic authorities anticipate a possible spillover towards Marenahalli Road near Ragigudda Metro station, as well as Banashankari Road, Kanakapura Road and JP Nagar. In this context, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's earlier proposal for an underpass near Sri Raghavendra Swamy Mutt may gain renewed urgency once the flyover becomes fully operational.

QUICK READ

Broken drainage line sparks anger in Sindagi

Sindagi

Residents of Ward No. 7 in Sindagi town are facing serious trouble due to a broken underground drainage pipeline near Hari Bhavi area behind Hyderabad Aad. Sewage water has been collecting for nearly a week spreading foul smell and unhealthy conditions. Locals said repeated complaints brought no solution. Municipal staff inspected the spot and said a new collar was needed but repairs never began. Calls to senior officials went unanswered. Residents also highlighted poor roads streetlights and sanitation. They warned protests will grow if authorities fail to act soon. People hope swift action brings relief and restores civic dignity.

Villagers lock veterinary hospital over doctor absence

Vijayapura

Residents of Halasangi village in Chadachan taluk protested by locking the government veterinary hospital. Villagers said doctors were not reporting to duty regularly, leaving the hospital non functional for several days. Angry residents raised slogans and demanded immediate action. The hospital serves livestock from seven nearby villages and is the only veterinary facility in the area. Due to its closure, cattle and other animals are suffering, affecting farmers badly. Protesters urged authorities to ensure doctors attend duty daily and restore services quickly. Officials were warned protests would intensify if neglect continued in coming days without delay further.

BJP Yuva Morcha Demands Excise Minister's Immediate Removal

Patil alleged liquor shop owners are forced to pay ₹ 15,000–₹ 20,000 monthly bribes statewide to continue operating their businesses

VIJAYAPURA

BJP Yuva Morcha city president Sandeep Patil has called for the immediate removal of the State Excise Minister, alleging large-scale corruption in the Excise Department and loss to the public exchequer.

In a press statement, Patil claimed the department, one of the highest revenue earners for the government, has been "caught in a web of corruption." He alleged that illegal collections linked to transfers, licence renewals, and new permits have been taking place for the past three years with the involvement of certain officials and middlemen. He further alleged that the names of Excise Minister R.B. Timmapur and his son Vinay Timmapur have surfaced in connection with reported audio clips about illegal collections.

Patil claimed liquor shop owners are forced to pay heavy bribes to continue their business. He alleged monthly payments ranging from ₹15,000 to ₹20,000 are being collected from outlets across the state.

He said complaints about an alleged transfer racket operating from the minister's office had earlier been submitted to the Governor. He also said a federation of wine merchants had sought a change in leadership of the the department. Referring to past incidents, Patil mentioned reported audio clips about bribe demands for licences and suspensions of some excise officials in separate cases. He also alleged irregularities in the e-auction of bar licences, noting that the High Court had stayed the process.

Demanding action, Patil urged the government to remove the minister and act against those involved. He warned that the BJP would launch statewide protests if no steps are taken over the issue in the coming days, he added during public campaigns.

Silent tribute marks Martyrs' Day in Vijayapura

District Magistrate Dr. Anand K urged citizens to honor freedom fighters through actions reflecting constitutional values, inspired by soldiers' courage, fostering unity, responsibility, and national pride

VIJAYAPURA

The district administration observed Martyrs' Day with a solemn silent tribute to honour the sacrifices of freedom fighters and national heroes. The programme was organised by the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports along with the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, City Corporation, Bharatiya Seva Dal, and Scouts and Guides.

Wreaths were placed at the Martyrs' Circle memorial in Meenakshi Chowk and at the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi. Officials, students, and members of various organisations stood in silence to remember those who gave their lives for the nation's freedom.

District Magistrate Dr. Anand K said it is the duty of every citizen to remember the sacrifices of freedom fighters every day.

He urged people to honour them not just in words but through actions that follow the values of the Constitution. He also said the nation's soldiers and martyrs are a source of pride, and their courage should inspire unity and responsibility.

Speakers highlighted Mahatma Gandhi's path of truth and non-violence, recalling his role in leading the country's freedom struggle through peaceful movements and fasts. They said his ideals continue to guide society today.

R.C. Hiremath from the Girls' Pre-University College addressed students and encouraged the younger generation to learn from the lives of freedom fighters and stay connected to the nation's history. Students Tanvi and Iramma also shared their thoughts, saying youth should work to fulfil the dreams of those who fought for independence.

Later, participants walked in a procession from Martyrs' Circle to Mahatma Gandhi Chowk and garlanded Gandhi's statue. Several district and city officials, public representatives, teachers, and students took part in the observance. Cultural programmes were also held to promote national unity and patriotism.

Police rescue two child labourers in Vijayapura

VIJAYAPURA

Police in Vijayapura city rescued two child labourers during a special drive conducted at various shops. Acting on specific information that minors were being employed in grocery shops, the Akka Force carried out inspections and rescued two children found working illegally. The rescued children were taken to the police station for further procedures. Cases have been registered against the shop owners for employing child labour, and they have been issued strict warnings, police said. Further action will be taken in accordance with the law, officials added.

Officials urged awareness to prevent child labour and protect vulnerable children.

Sabard said the Lingayat tradition promotes equality and harmony, noting even past opponents of Basavanna now praise him

Writer alleges history distorted, Basavanna role ignored

BIDAR

Senior writer Dr Basavaraj Sabard alleged that a group of Pancha Jagadgurus distorted history and ignored the true role of Basavanna while speaking at the 24th Vachana Vijayotsava program held at Basavagiri in Bidar on Friday.

He claimed that religious heads had presented a misleading version of history by placing Basavanna after their own tradition, even though Basavanna lived in the 12th century and led a major social reform movement long before their institutions took shape in later centuries.

Sabard said the Lingayat tradition was built on equality, shared dignity, and social harmony, and he argued that these ideas were practiced by the Sharanas centuries ago. He added that many who once opposed Basavanna are now publicly praising him.

Basava Foundation President Dr Gangabike Akka said the Sharanas had faced severe persecution in their time, including exile and destruction of their writings, but noted that many of their ideals are reflected today in constitutional values such as equality and justice.

Speakers at the event highlighted the importance of Vachana literature, saying it opened the doors of learning to common people at a time when education was limited to a small section of society. They described the Vachanas as a guide to ethical living and social responsibility. Several seers, scholars, and community leaders were present and called for deeper study of Basavanna's teachings and the message of equality found in the Sharan tradition.

The organizers said the annual Vijayotsava aims to spread awareness about Vachana philosophy among youth and encourage discussions on social reform, spiritual values, and peaceful coexistence in modern society. They urged people to read Vachanas in daily life.

Grand Mahashivaratri plans mark Shiva statue milestone

VIJAYAPURA

With Mahashivaratri just two weeks away, grand preparations are in full swing at Shivagiri in Vijayapura city. This year is extra special as the famous 85-foot-tall statue of Lord Shiva completes 20 years, making the festival more meaningful for devotees.

Mahashivaratri is one of the most sacred Hindu festivals and is celebrated with prayers and rituals at Shiva temples across the country. At Shivagiri, the celebrations will include religious ceremonies, cultural events, social service, and activities that support nature and the environment.

The festival is being organised by the T.K. Patil Charitable Trust under the leadership of film producer and industrialist Basantkumar Patil. The trust is known for its service work, including planting more than 10,000 saplings, conducting mass marriages, offering daily free meals, and holding blood donation camps.

To mark 20 years of the grand Shiva idol, special homas and havans will be performed. Devotees will also get a chance to take part. Trust member Srinivas Kulkarni said this year's homa will be spiritually unique and meaningful.

Programmes will begin on February 14. On Mahashivaratri, February 15, rituals will start at 4.30 am with homa-havan, followed by Rudrabhisheka and other special pujas held every hour.

Traditional shehnai music will be played at 6.30 am, and the festival flag will be hoisted at 8.30 am. In the evening, a silver Shiva idol will be placed on a gold-plated chariot.

In a rare custom, married women and daughters-in-law will pull the chariot. Cultural programmes, bhajans, and decorations will create a deeply spiritual atmosphere for all devotees.

Land granted to Achiari community after long struggle

BIDAR

The Achiari community in Auradhapura has won a long-awaited victory after years of struggle for land rights. The district administration has officially granted 2 acres of land to benefit 140 families, bringing relief and recognition to the community, officials said.

For over a decade, the Achiari people had been living in Auradhapura town with ration cards, Aadhaar IDs, and other essential documents linked to the area. In 2020, the government had allocated land 10 km away, but the community demanded it be provided within Auradhapura itself. Their persistent protests and petitions drew the attention of authorities.

The intervention of the Central Government Chief Minister and the district administration ensured the land was handed over to the Achiari community in the town. Citizens have received certificates of ownership, and officials praised the administration for addressing the long-standing grievances of the poor and marginalized families.

Community leaders and supporters, including Rathu Khandare, Antosh B.N.D., Praveen Karanje, and Dinesh B.N.D., expressed gratitude for the resolution, calling it a significant step toward justice. Residents said the allocation of land will secure their livelihoods and strengthen the community's ties to Auradhapura.

The successful resolution is seen as a model of responsive governance and a triumph for the rights of historically disadvantaged communities in the district.

Festivals should protect women, culture and environment: Meera Mantalkar

BHALKI

Meera Mantalkar, district executive of the Rashtriya Sevika Samiti, emphasized the importance of protecting women's respect, cultural values, and the environment through traditional festivals like Sankranti Utsav. The program was organized at Khadakeshwar Vidya Mandir by the Bhalki unit of the Samiti, celebrating Sankranti with devotion and cultural rituals.

Mantalkar said Sankranti reflects agricultural traditions, social unity, and family bonds, and is a festival that strengthens societal harmony. "It is everyone's responsibility to uphold women's dignity, preserve our culture, and promote environmental awareness through such celebrations," she added.

Shivalinga Kumbara highlighted that women are not only the backbone of the family but also vital in passing down culture, traditions, and heritage from generation to generation. To mark the 90th anniversary of the Rashtriya Sevika Samiti, saplings were distributed to 90 women to promote green living and environmental protection.

Over 180 women participated in the program, enjoying the celebrations and sharing the joy of Sankranti. Mothers were honored with sesame-jaggery, arasin-kumkum, and respectful farewells.

Dr. Sneha Balke delivered the presidential address, while Megha Halmage served as guest of honor. Other notable attendees included Sarojani Kumbara, Deepika Pawar, Rekha Tate, Priya Deshmukh, and Rajeshwari Ashture. Shivaleela Muddale narrated the program, and Basavanjali Sutara proposed the vote of thanks, completing the culturally rich event.

Gold and cash stolen from Loni Temple

VIJAYAPURA

In a shocking theft, miscreants broke into Gattaragi Bhagamman Temple in Loni B.K, stealing gold ornaments and cash from the donation box. The theft was discovered when temple priest Suresh Koli arrived for daily puja and found the lock broken. He immediately alerted villagers.

Police from Zalaki Station visited the temple and began an investigation. A case has been registered, and inquiries are ongoing. Villagers expressed worry over the rising number of thefts in Chadachan and Indi taluks, claiming burglars operate without fear. Residents urged authorities to take strong action, including installing CCTV cameras and arranging night patrols. Village leader Ramesh Jitti also requested a special investigation team to probe repeated thefts and ensure the culprits face justice. The incident has heightened concerns about security in rural areas and the need for preventive measures.

Gandhi Chowk Police start drive to reduce congestion

VIJAYAPURA

In a move to ease traffic problems, Gandhi Chowk Police launched a special drive across Vijayapura city. Officers focused on major roads and the Gandhi Chowk area, where unauthorized parking of autos and other vehicles had caused severe traffic jams.

During the operation, police cleared vehicles parked illegally to ensure smooth traffic flow. Auto drivers and other motorists found breaking traffic rules were warned on the spot. Authorities also said strict legal action would follow if violations continue.

The initiative drew praise from commuters, who welcomed the effort and expressed relief at the improved traffic conditions. Many residents urged the police to conduct such drives regularly to maintain order on busy city roads. Officials hope the enforcement will encourage drivers to follow rules, reduce congestion, and make travel safer and faster for everyone in Vijayapura.

CAREER GROWTH EVENT

Vijayapura job fair offers careers for youth

VIJAYAPURA

A major job fair will be held on February 2 at the Darbar School grounds in Vijayapura, providing a golden opportunity for educated unemployed youth to find jobs suited to their skills, said Karnataka Skill Development Corporation Chairman Kanta Naik.

Addressing a press conference at the Tourist Lodge, Naik said the fair will run from 9 am to 5 pm. Candidates are encouraged to register in advance at https://udyogamela.ksdckarnataka.com to make the most of the event.

The initiative aims not only to provide employment but also to offer skill-based training matching candidates' abilities. So far, 152 companies have registered to participate, while 9,609 job seekers from Vijayapura and across Karnataka have already signed up. Participation and registration are free of cost.

During the fair, companies will conduct preliminary interviews on the spot. Candidates will receive guidance on career options, training opportunities, and high-demand technical skills. They will also interact directly with employers, project managers, and technology experts to understand industry requirements and trends.

To assist attendees, multiple counters will be set up for information and support. Ministers, public representatives, and senior officials from the district will participate.

District officials present at the press meet included Municipal Council member Arati Shahapur, Municipal Commissioner Vijay Mekkalaki, Zilla Panchayat Secretary Prakash Vaddar, and other senior officers, highlighting strong local support for this skill and employment initiative.

QUICK READ

Madiwala Machideva Jayanti celebration set in February

Mandya

The Madiwala Machideva Jayanti will be celebrated on February 2 at 10:30 am at Mandya Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar Kalamandir, organized by Mandya District Administration and Kannada & Culture Department. Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy will be the chief guest, while Agriculture Minister N. Chaluvarayaswamy will inaugurate the event. Several dignitaries, including MLAs A.B. Ramesh Bandisidde Gowda, P.M. Narendraswamy, and Dinesh Gooli Gowda, along with other officials, will attend. Mandya MLA P. Ravi Kumar will preside. A special lecture will be delivered by Kannada lecturer Sabbanahalli Nagaraju. The program highlights cultural heritage and community participation, attracting people from across Mandya district.

Clearance drive launched near Kumbara Lake

Bagalkot

A clearance drive was carried out near Kumbara Lake on Kunchanur Road in Jamkhandi city to support ongoing lake development works. Led by Municipal Councillor Jyoti Girish, the operation aimed to ensure smooth progress of the project and improve cleanliness around the area. Health Inspector Rajkumar Hosur, municipal officials Manjunath Hadapada, Srikanth Ghatage, Raghu Kadakola, and staff participated in the drive. Authorities said such operations will continue to boost sanitation and urban development in the city. Residents welcomed the initiative, hoping it will make the lake area cleaner and more accessible for everyone.

Foundation laid for Sripurusha Kannada Bhavan

The project involves the district administration, cultural departments, and Kannada Sahitya Parishat to preserve Mandya's literary legacy

MANDYA

District in-charge Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy laid the foundation stone for the construction of a new Kannada Bhavan in Mandya, saying the building will stand as a lasting memory of the 87th All India Kannada Sahitya Sammelana. He announced that the centre would be named after Ganga emperor Sripurusha, remembered for his contribution to Kannada literature and history.

The project is being taken up jointly by the district administration, the Department of Kannada and Culture, the Municipal Council, and the Kannada Sahitya Parishat. The minister said the grand literary conference held in the district brought pride and recognition to Mandya, and the Kannada Bhavan would preserve that legacy for future generations.

He noted that the Chief Minister had sanctioned a special grant of ₹50 crore for cultural and temple development in the district. Local MLAs have also contributed funds for the Kannada Bhavan project. The building is being constructed at a cost of about ₹5.5 crore within the premises of Sir M. Visvesvaraya Indoor Stadium.

Speaking at the event, MLAs P. Ravikumar and Darshan Puttannaiah said the Sammelana drew lakhs of visitors and boosted the district's image. They added that the new Bhavan would serve as a centre for literary and cultural activities.

District officials said land has been identified for the building, which will reflect Kannada culture, literature, and heritage. Religious leaders and several public representatives attended the ceremony, expressing hope that the Bhavan would inspire pride in language and history among young people. They said it would become a vibrant space for cultural learning.

Meti family contest intensifies Bagalkot by-election battle

Several family members of the late leader showed interest, with youngest daughter Mahadevi Meti entering politics, bringing fresh energy to the local political scene

BAGALKOT

Political activity has picked up in the Bagalkot Assembly constituency as preparations begin for a by-election following the death of senior Congress MLA H.Y. Meti. Both the Congress and BJP are gearing up for a direct fight, while a parallel contest is unfolding within the Meti family for the Congress ticket. Several family members of the late leader have expressed interest, and the newest name in the race is Mahadevi Meti, his youngest daughter. She has largely stayed away from active politics until now, but her entry has added fresh energy to the local political scene. Groups of her supporters have started meeting voters, and social media posts projecting her as a Congress aspirant are gaining attention. Some of her supporters have also raised slogans online claiming that Bagalkot should be led by leaders based in the constituency itself.

Mahadevi Meti has said she decided to step into politics after requests from her father's supporters. She stated that she wants to work for the people of Bagalkot and ensure the constituency gets focused attention. Referring to past issues, she said people often had to travel outside the constituency for certain matters and added that local leadership should address local needs.

She has not yet met senior Congress leaders but said she would soon seek their guidance and is ready to contest if given the party ticket.

Meanwhile, with four members of the Meti family now in contention, the Congress leadership faces a difficult task in choosing its candidate. The by-election atmosphere is becoming more intense, and party workers are waiting for the final decision from the high command.

Koppal launches districtwide tax drive

KOPPAL

Koppal Zilla Panchayat CEO Varnit Negi has announced an intensive districtwide tax collection campaign, running until February 8. The campaign aims to achieve full tax recovery from all gram panchayats and support village-level development projects.

The drive will operate daily from 8 am to 6 pm. Officials have been instructed to actively recover pending dues and encourage maximum participation from residents. Gram panchayats must display banners and use public announcements, including Swachh Vani vehicles, to raise awareness about the importance of paying taxes on time.

Authorities are also required to maintain a list of defaulters and conduct house-to-house visits to collect pending amounts. Taluk Panchayat Subject Managers will gather updates from each gram panchayat every two hours. This information will be submitted daily to the Swachh Bharat Mission consultant at the Zilla Panchayat, who will forward compiled reports to the Deputy Secretary of the Gram Panchayat section.

Justice Santosh emphasized that denying children proper care violates law; institutions must support and integrate them socially

Shivamogga leads districts in protecting children's rights

SHIVAMOGGA

Shivamogga district has emerged as a leader in protecting and promoting children's rights, said M.S. Santosh, Senior Civil Judge and Member Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority. He spoke while inaugurating an awareness programme on child marriage, POCSO law, and child protection at the District DIET Institute on Friday.

The programme was organised by the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, the Directorate of Child Protection, the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, District Police, Health Department, Education Department, Women and Child Development Department, and the District Child Protection Unit. Officers from child care institutions, helpline staff, and child protection officials attended.

Justice Santosh said every child deserves proper care and protection in society. When children are denied this care, it becomes a violation of the law. He stressed that child care institutions must ensure children receive good support and are helped to join the social mainstream.

He also called for regular coordination meetings among departments and continuous awareness drives on child marriage and child protection laws. Active cooperation from all departments is necessary to make such campaigns successful, he added.

Aparna Kolla, member of the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, urged officials to take strong action without compromise when it comes to children's welfare. She said officers must clearly understand child marriage laws, POCSO provisions, and child rights, and ensure they are properly implemented.

Officials were asked to gather timely information on child marriage risks and strengthen prevention efforts across the district. Several department heads and members of child welfare bodies were present at the programme. Speakers said joint action and vigilance can help create a safer environment for every child in the district.

Budanur Festival to be celebrated with grand events

MANDYA

The annual Budanur Festival-2026 will be celebrated on February 21 and 22 with grandeur, announced Mandya MLA P. Ravi Kumar at a preparatory meeting held at Zilla Panchayat Cauvery Hall today. The festival, which is a major cultural and religious event in the district, will feature a mix of traditional rituals, art, and entertainment for locals and visitors.

This year, heli tourism will be organized for three days, allowing tourists and locals to enjoy aerial views of the festival at affordable rates. Ravi Kumar highlighted that Budanur is home to the Ananthapadmanabha Temple, a rare temple comparable to Kerala's, which is a source of pride for the district. Adequate vehicle facilities and a neat parking system will be arranged for visitors.

A grand procession will start from Halebudanur, featuring 37 puja dance groups and various art troupes. A food fair, rangoli competition with cash prizes, and painting competitions for children will also be organized. Cultural programs over two days will prioritize local artists, including a musical rasamanjari performance by Guru Kiran and Rajesh Krishnan. Rural sports such as kabaddi and Agga Jaggata will encourage community participation, especially among women.

District Collector Dr. Kumar praised the festival's contribution to preserving the art, architecture, and cultural heritage of Budanur temples. Committees have been formed to ensure smooth conduct of all events, with full cooperation from villagers and local leaders.

The meeting also observed a two-minute silence in honor of Mahatma Gandhi on Martyrs' Day. Officials present included Zilla Panchayat CEO K.R. Nandini, Additional District Collector B.C. Shivananda Murthy, and Mandya Tahsildar Vishwanath.

Police urged to act child-friendly, protect rights

MANGALURU

Child Welfare Committee President Dr. Akshata Adarsh has stressed that police must act in a child-friendly manner and remove the fear children often feel toward law enforcement. She made these remarks at the inauguration of an awareness workshop for Child Welfare Police Officers, held at the Zilla Panchayat Netravati Auditorium on Friday.

The program was organized jointly by the Special Police Unit, Child Protection Directorate, District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, District Legal Services Authority, Women and Child Development Department, Child Helpline, and related agencies. Dr. Adarsh emphasized that children must be supported and guided when in need of protection, ensuring they receive justice and help to reintegrate into society.

She added that public and child awareness about child protection laws is essential to preventing crimes against minors. "Police should continuously work to prevent atrocities, provide helpline information, and instill hope and self-confidence in children," she said.

Additional Superintendent of Police Anil Kumar Bhuma Reddy, presiding over the event, highlighted that timely action, legal aid, and rescue operations are crucial for cases involving child abuse, disappearances, or early marriages. Police must also actively create awareness about child rights and protection laws at the grassroots level.

Resource person Rohit CG of SJPU CID guided officers on best practices. Mangalore Deputy Police Commissioner Ravi Shankar, Assistant Police Commissioner Geetha Kulkarni, District Child Protection Officer Rashmi, and other officials attended the workshop.

Mandya rally urges respect for leprosy patients

MANDYA

A district-level leprosy awareness rally was held in front of the District Collector's Office in Mandya, emphasizing that leprosy patients should not face social discrimination and must be treated with dignity. The event, organized jointly by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, and District Health and Family Welfare Department (Leprosy Eradication Division), was inaugurated with a green flag and speeches by officials.

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumar said that people showing symptoms of leprosy should immediately consult local doctors for treatment. "Leprosy is a curable disease. Patients should be treated with respect, and society should avoid stigma," he said. He noted the rally coincides with Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary, honoring his work toward fully, and succeed in life. Society should understand that the disease cannot spread through casual contact," she said.

Officials visited homes of leprosy patients during the campaign to motivate families and raise awareness about treatment and social inclusion.

Other dignitaries present included District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. K. Mohan, District AIDS Control Officer Dr. M.N. Ashalatha, RCH Officer Dr. K.P. Ashwath, Leprosy Eradication Officer Dr. Somashekar, Health Inspector Venu Gopal, and Kittur Rani Chennamma Awardee B.S. Anupama.

DC urges immediate resolution of CNG distribution issues

UDUPI

District Collector Swaroop T. K has directed that the ongoing problems in CNG gas distribution across Udupi district be resolved immediately, ensuring smooth and timely supply for customers. He made the remarks while presiding over a meeting at the District Collector's Office Hall, Rajatadri, Manipal, on Friday. Auto drivers and other CNG vehicle users have been facing long waiting hours, sometimes over two to three hours, at gas stations, causing significant inconvenience. The Collector instructed that the GAIL Gas Company and Adani Gas Company coordinate to meet customer demand efficiently and remove distribution bottlenecks.He emphasized that while filling CNG tankers at the Mangaluru depot, vehicles from Udupi district should be given priority, and a systematic schedule should be considered to streamline tanker filling. The number of CNG vehicles in the district is increasing, and additional measures, including deploying more tanker vehicles, must be taken to meet the rising demand.

CONSCIOUSNESS OVER HABIT

Rajayoga key to building addiction-free society: Dayanand Babu

T. NARASIPUR

Rajayoga education is essential to help people overcome addiction and build a healthier society, said orthopedic specialist Dr. Dayanand Babu. He spoke after inaugurating an awareness programme at Shiva Gyan Darshan Bhavan in Vidyanagar, organised by the Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya.

Dr. Dayanand Babu said many organisations are working across the country to create an addiction-free society, but true success can come only through spiritual education and self-control through Rajayoga.

Psychiatrist Dr. Kishore M.R. said mental stress is a major cause of addiction. He explained that meditation and mental discipline are important tools in reducing stress and improving emotional strength.

Speaking from the Gundlupet Seva Kendra, Rajayogini Brahmakumari Veenaji said health experts believe that a large number of modern illnesses are linked to mental and emotional stress. She stressed the need for spiritual awareness to maintain both mental and physical well-being.

Rajayogini Brahmakumari Dhaneshwariji, a mental health trainer, said it is worrying that many students and young people are falling into addiction at an early age. She warned that substance abuse can harm the brain and affect a person's ability to handle life's challenges. Alcohol and drug use, she said, often lead to fear, depression, family problems, and loss of peace in life.

Several members and volunteers of the organisation were present at the programme. Speakers urged families and communities to guide youth toward meditation, positive habits, and a balanced lifestyle to ensure a healthier and addiction-free future.

QUICK READ

Sri Renukayllamma Devi Jatra festival to be celebrated on Feb 1

CHITRADURGA

The 79th Sri Renukayllamma Devi Jatra Mahotsava will be held on February 1 at Savadatti Sri Renukayllamma Temple near Sharadamma Kalyana Mantapa on Holalkere Road. Devotees will witness special rituals including Panchamrutha Abhishekam, Sahasra Bilvarchana, flower-decorated darshan, and the filling of Madlakki and Paddali to Sridevi. The puja will continue from 7 am to 10 pm. Chief officer L. Tukarama Chavan urged devotees to attend in large numbers, offer prayers, and receive prasad. The festival promises spiritual experience, community participation, and blessings from Sridevi for all visitors during this auspicious day.

New QR Code issued for Chitradurga job fair

CHITRADURGA

A technical issue with the previous QR code for the district-level job fair has led authorities to issue a new QR code for candidate registration. The fair will be held on February 1 from 9:30 am at Government Arts College, Chitradurga. Candidates can register through the district website or Google Form using the new QR code. Reputed state companies will participate. Eligible candidates include males, females, and disabled individuals aged 18–35 with SSLC, PUC, ITI, B.E., or any degree. Registration is free. Applicants must bring five biodata copies and an Aadhaar xerox. Contact NRLM Unit, Taluk Panchayat, or District Skill Development Office for details.

Former Min Anjaneya urges higher reservation, seeks united pressure

Anjaneya warned Karnataka's 56% reservation may be challenged in court, urging BJP leaders to seek protective Union legislation

CHITRADURGA

Former Minister H. Anjaneya has called for an increase in the reservation limit, saying it is necessary for the welfare of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities. Speaking at a press conference in Chitradurga on Friday, he said the demand has been pending for decades and cannot be delayed any longer.

He pointed out that the Centre implemented ten percent reservation for economically weaker sections within a short time, and similar urgency should be shown for SC and ST communities. He said the state has already taken steps like internal reservation, showing its commitment.

Anjaneya said the reservation rate had earlier been raised to fifty six percent in Karnataka, but the matter is now before the court. If the court gives an adverse ruling, some communities could lose benefits, he warned. He urged BJP leaders, MPs and MLAs to pressure the Union government to bring a law protecting the higher quota. He said the state government must strongly present its case before the judiciary and explain the social realities that justify a higher limit. He added that internal reservation is already being implemented and has benefited many students, and recruitment to vacant posts should restart without delay.

Referring to the Governor returning the bill for clarification, Anjaneya said there was no need for panic and that discussions would continue. He also announced plans for a large meeting in Bengaluru to unite SC and ST leaders and submit a memorandum demanding a rise in reservation.

He said social justice requires united efforts from political parties, community leaders and citizens, and expressed confidence that a fair solution would emerge soon through dialogue.

KV Prabhakar urges moral values alongside modern education

KOLAR

Prabhakar emphasized education should foster kindness and responsibility, noting that traditional community bonds strengthened relationships, while today many families drift apart despite living together.

Chief Minister's Media Advisor K.V. Prabhakar called on students, parents, and teachers to give equal importance to moral values along with academic success. He spoke at the anniversary celebration of Rock Valley International School, where he shared concerns about changing family bonds and social habits.

Prabhakar said education should not only prepare children for jobs but also shape them into kind and responsible human beings. In earlier days, he said, families and communities stayed closely connected. Weddings and festivals brought people together, helping relationships grow stronger over time. Today, he observed, many families are drifting apart despite living under the same roof.

He expressed worry over the rising number of old age homes, saying it reflects weakening respect and care for elders. Parents work hard to raise their children with love and sacrifice, he said, but some children forget these efforts as they grow older. Even at home, family members now speak more through mobile phones than face to face, which reduces emotional bonding.

Prabhakar also cautioned about the overuse of technology. While modern tools are helpful, he said, they should not replace real human connection. He stressed that schools must focus on character building, discipline, and values that guide children throughout life. He congratulated Rock Valley International School for completing twenty years of service in education. Trust President Roopa Pillappa presided over the event. Several guests, including educationists and community leaders, attended the function and appreciated the school's role in shaping young minds. They said value-based education can build caring families, responsible citizens, and a society where elders are respected, supported, and never left alone truly.

DCC Bank Director Muniraju credited development work for strong support, winning 670 of 880 valid votes in constituency

Congress panel sweeps Narasapura Sangha Board elections

KOLAR

Congress-backed candidates won a clear victory in the election to the board of directors of the Narasapura Multipurpose Primary Agriculture Rural Cooperative Society in Kolar taluk, leaving candidates supported by the BJP and JD(S) alliance disappointed.

Out of the 12 seats on the board, 11 were secured by Congress supporters, while only one seat went to the alliance panel. The newly elected members will serve a five-year term. Party workers and local leaders celebrated the win by bursting crackers and sharing sweets.

DCC Bank Director Khajikallahalli Muniraju, who led the Congress-backed team, said the strong support came from the development work carried out for the Sangha, including the construction of a large building. He said 1,005 votes were cast in his constituency, of which 125 were rejected. Of the 880 valid votes, he received 670.

Muniraju also alleged that his opponents had tried to damage his image during the campaign. Referring to a video circulated on social media, he said it was fake and meant to insult him. He has filed a police complaint and warned that he would file a defamation case seeking ₹10 crore in damages.

Leaders from the BJP and JD(S) alliance had campaigned actively, with former minister Varthuru Prakash and Kurki Rajeshwari supporting their candidates. The campaign period saw sharp exchanges, with the alliance accusing the Sangha management of irregularities, while Congress leaders denied the charges and called them politically motivated.

Despite the heated contest, the final results showed a decisive mandate in favour of the Congress-backed team, strengthening their hold over the cooperative body and setting the stage for development plans in the years.

Grand Sri Venkateswara temple festival begins in Feb

CHITRADURGA

The newly renovated Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Kundur Gollarahatti (Srinivasapura) village of Kasaba hobli, Hosadurga taluk, will host its Kalasharohana and five-day festival from February 6 to 10. The event promises a blend of religious rituals, cultural programs, and community celebrations.

The festivities begin on February 6 with the beating of Jandevu, measurement of reserved rice, and a ceremonial Ganges bath. On February 7, rituals start early with the Ganges bath of Venkateswara Swamy and Katamlingeshwara Swamy deities at the Dasharatharameshwara shrine, followed by Poorna Kumbha reception. Evening programs include Vastuhoma and Rakshabandhan ceremonies. The highlight of the festival, the new temple entry and Kalasharohana, is scheduled on February 8 from 9:30 to 10:30 am during the auspicious Aries ascendant.

Chikkaballapur pledges strong fight against leprosy

CHIKKABALLAPUR

Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu has called on the people of Chikkaballapur district to unite in making the area leprosy-free. Speaking on the importance of early detection and treatment, he emphasized that leprosy is easily curable if identified promptly.

"We will make every effort to detect all leprosy cases at the earliest and use all available district resources to provide care," said Prabhu. He stressed that combating the disease is not just a medical goal but a social responsibility.

Prabhu also highlighted the need to fight stigma and discrimination against people affected by leprosy and their families. "We will not tolerate discrimination in any form. Everyone affected must be treated with dignity and included fully in the community," he added.

The district administration plans to implement awareness campaigns, screenings, and support programs, encouraging both individuals and communities to participate actively. Residents are urged to come forward if they notice symptoms and seek timely medical attention.

The collective pledge by the district is clear: "End Discrimination, Preserve Dignity." Authorities believe that with public support, Chikkaballapur can achieve a leprosy-free status while promoting understanding, compassion, and social inclusion for all affected families.

Mahadevappa pushes bigger budget for farmers, irrigation

CHITRADURGA

State President Nagar Mahadevappa of the Krishika Samaj said a special proposal will be sent to the state government seeking higher budget support for agriculture and irrigation in the coming financial year. He was speaking after chairing the district executive committee meeting held at the office of the Joint Director of Agriculture in Chitradurga.

Mahadevappa said the present allocation for farm and irrigation development is too low to solve long-standing problems faced by farmers. He stressed that permanent solutions require focused projects, better water management, and timely financial support. He assured members that he would urge the government to increase grants in the next budget. District Farmers' Association President N.R. Maheshwarappa said drip irrigation has received a strong response, especially as only a small area in the district has canal water. He added that water from the long-pending Bhadra Upper River Project is expected soon, and modern irrigation methods can help farmers use it wisely. More than 3,000 farmers have applied online for drip systems, but extra funds are needed to issue work orders. The scheme now offers 50 percent subsidy for general farmers and 90 percent for SC and ST farmers. Members also raised concern over shortage of skilled workers in sericulture and delays in subsidy payments. Horticulture officials highlighted that the cold storage unit at Hiriyur has remained shut for years, causing losses to fruit and vegetable growers, and urged its revival through a public-private partnership.

JUSTICE MEETS HYGIENE

JUDGES LEAD CLEANLINESS DRIVE ON MARTYRS' DAY

CHIKKABALLAPURA

Judges, lawyers, and officials joined a cleanliness drive at the APMC market yard here on National Martyrs' Day, spreading awareness about hygiene, road safety, and social responsibility. Principal District and Sessions Judge T.P. Ramalingegowda, who is also President of the District Legal Services Authority, flagged off the campaign and took a pledge to keep surroundings clean and protect public health. The program was organized by the District Legal Services Authority along with the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Municipal Council, and District Lawyers' Association. Participants carried bags, collected plastic waste, and cleaned solid garbage across the busy market area. The judge appreciated the efforts of civic workers, municipal staff, lawyers, and department officials who took part in the activity. He noted that heavy public movement in the APMC yard requires better sanitation facilities and said instructions have been given to improve the toilet system. Along with cleanliness, special awareness drives are being held to fight social evils and promote road safety. Teams have already conducted such campaigns at large public gatherings, including fairs and exhibitions in the district. Plans are underway to hold one awareness program every month in each hobli of all taluks. Topics will include prevention of child marriage, female foeticide, and POCSO-related crimes, along with guidance on legal rights and free legal aid.

The judge urged citizens not to use banned plastic and to switch to eco-friendly bags. He also stressed wearing helmets on two-wheelers and seat belts in cars. Several judges, lawyers, health officials, and municipal officers were present. Students and volunteers also joined, showing public support for cleaner surroundings and safer community life.

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

Altum Credo Home Finance

ALTUM CREDO HOME FINANCE PRIVATE LTD
Regd. Office: Floor No. 7, Kalpataru Infinia, Wakdewadi, Shivajinagar, Pune - 411005. Maharashtra (India)

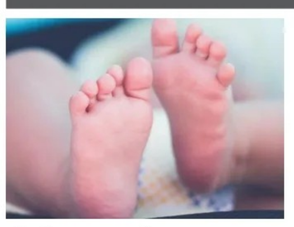
DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitization And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. The undersigned is the authorized officer of **Altum Credo Home Finance Pvt. Ltd. (ACHFL)**.Under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (The said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, the authorized officer has issued demand notices under 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the borrower(s) [The "said borrower(s)"], to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective demand notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the said borrower(s) to pay to **Altum Credo Home Finance Pvt. Ltd. (ACHFL)**, within sixty days from the publication of this notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said demand notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said borrower(s). As Security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to **Altum Credo Home Finance Pvt. Ltd. (ACHFL)** by the said borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) Loan Account Number
1. Manjegowda S. (Applicant), **2. Deepa S.** (Co-Applicant), **LAN: S152202000014**
Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA Date
06.01.2026 / **Rs. 5,99,214/-** (Rupees Five Lakhs Ninety Nine Thousand Two Hundred Fourteen Only) as on **05.01.2026 (NPA) on 06.01.2026**
Description Of Secured Assets (Immovable Property)
All that peace and parcel in the respect of building property situated at Kote Extension, Channarayapatna Town, Channarayapatna. Within the limits of Town Municipality, Channarayapatna, comes under the purview of Channarayapatna Sub Registrar, having a property ID No.47-503-6, Ward No. 1, SAS No. 70 old property no. 60 measuring East to West: 1) 4.87 2) 3.96 Mtr and North to South: 1) 5.48 2) 3.04 Mtr in total 38.83 Sq Mtr wherein residential building is constructed in 38.83 Sq. Mtr @ ground and first floor respectively. **East:** Property of Kumar S/o. Mariyappa, **West:** Property of Lakshminarayanappa, **North:** Purasaba Road (conservancy), **South:** Private Property.
Name of the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) Loan Account Number
1. Hejjura J. (Applicant), **2. Roopa M.** (Co-Applicant), **LAN: S118209000003**
Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA Date
06.01.2026 / **Rs. 2,09,697/-** (Rupees Two Lakhs Nine Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Seven Only) as on **05.01.2026 (NPA) on 06.01.2026**
Description Of Secured Assets (Immovable Property)
All that piece and parcel of the Property No. 323/1, G.I. Asset No. 152200102117500359, Situated at Hanchipura Grama, Hanchipura Gramapanchayth the property is coming under the limits of Saraguru Taluk, Mysore District. Measuring East to West 8.534 mtr and North to South 8.8392 mtr. **East:** Government Road, **West:** Property of Gopamma, **North:** Property of Kalaiah, **South:** Property of Ramaiah.
Name of the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) Loan Account Number
1. Siddaraju N (Applicant), **2. Jyothi C.** (Co-Applicant), **LAN: S118202000264**
Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA Date
06.01.2026 / **Rs. 8,15,285/-** (Rupees Eight Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Five Only) as on **05.01.2026 (NPA) on 06.01.2026**
Description Of Secured Assets (Immovable Property)
Property comprised in Property No(s) 123/1D/106/1D, bearing PID No. 152200702613100990 of Kannahalli village, T. Narasipura Taluk, Mysuru District, a Unique No. 152200702613100990, Property No. 123/1D/106/1D, Kannahalli Village, Kotthegala GP, T Narasipura Taluk, Mysore District - 571124. **East:** Road, **West:** Site of Nanjundashetty, **North:** House of Basavaraju, **South:** Passage.

Sd/-
Place : Channarayapatna / Mysore, Karnataka **Authorized Officer**
Date : 31.01.2026 **Altum Credo Home Finance Pvt. Ltd. (ACHFL)**

QUICK READ



Gujarat police uncover inter-state child trafficking network

Ahmedabad

The care and protection of a 15-day-old newborn rescued in an inter-state child trafficking case has been taken over by the Ahmedabad Police's SHE Team, with officials confirming that immediate arrangements have been made to ensure the infant's safety and well-being. The development follows a joint operation by the city's Crime Branch and the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), which led to the exposure of a child trafficking network spanning multiple states. Acting on specific intelligence, police intercepted a car near Kotarpur, close to the Ahmedabad airport, as it was travelling from Himmatnagar.

Barmer Collector withdraws Republic Day award

Jaipur

The Barmer district administration has withdrawn the Republic Day honour given to Dinesh Manju, the main accused in a deepfake video case involving Bayana MLA Ritu Banawat. The award was presented for his contribution to wildlife conservation. Independent MLA Ritu Banawat strongly objected to the felicitation, alleging that Manju had created and circulated a deepfake video of her on social media. She said that while some of his associates have been arrested, the main accused remains absconding. I had complained to ADG Crime Dinesh MN. His accomplices were arrested, but the main accused is still at large. Despite this, honouring him is a serious failure of the system, Banawat said.

Telangana Speaker Begins Hearing on Disqualification Plea

Telangana Assembly Speaker initiated hearings on petitions seeking disqualification of MLA Danam Nagender over alleged defection from BRS

HYDERABAD

Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar on Friday began hearing petitions seeking the disqualification of MLA Danam Nagender, who was elected on a Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) ticket but is accused of shifting loyalties to the ruling Indian National Congress.

The Speaker commenced proceedings by hearing arguments from the counsels representing BRS MLA Kaushik Reddy and BJP floor leader A. Maheshwar Reddy. Evidence presented by the petitioners will be recorded during this phase. The Speaker is expected to hear arguments from Nagender's counsel at a later stage. Nagender, however, said he has not yet received any notice from the Speaker directing him to appear in person.

The hearing follows a recent directive from the Supreme Court of India, which granted the Speaker two weeks to decide on petitions related to the disqualification of the remaining MLAs accused of defection. The top court's intervention has accelerated proceedings that have been pending for several months.

Earlier, the Speaker dismissed petitions seeking the disqualification of seven out of ten BRS MLAs who were alleged to have defected to the Congress in 2024. Ruling on those pleas, he said the petitioners failed to provide sufficient evidence to establish that the MLAs had formally joined the Congress, adding that they were technically still members of the BRS.

Last year, the Speaker had completed hearings on disqualification petitions against eight MLAs and reserved orders. He is yet to pronounce a decision on the plea seeking disqualification of MLA Sanjay Kumar. Hearings involving two other MLAs Danam Nagender and Kadiyam Srihari could not proceed earlier as they had not submitted replies to the notices served on them.

The BRS has maintained that the MLAs in question openly aligned with the Congress and even sat in the Treasury Benches during Assembly sessions. The MLAs, however, have denied formally joining the ruling party, setting the stage for a closely watched legal and political battle in Telangana.

Bihar Deputy CM Vows Crackdown on Land Mafia

PATNA

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Revenue and Land Reforms Vijay Kumar Sinha has intensified his campaign against the land mafia and corruption within the revenue department, asserting that he will not succumb to pressure, intimidation or threats from vested interests.

Speaking on Friday, Sinha said he had embarked on this mission with complete determination and personal resolve. Using strong words to underline his commitment, he said, I have set out with a shroud wrapped around my head. I fear no one, signalling that he is prepared to face any consequences in his fight against corruption and illegal land dealings.

The Deputy Chief Minister said his political journey has already tested his resolve, noting that he had contested elections by standing up to criminals in his constituency and had emerged victorious. That experience, he said, has further strengthened his determination to now confront the entrenched land mafia, middlemen and corrupt officials operating within the revenue and land reforms system.

Invoking the ideals of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Sinha said he had taken the tough decision in the larger public interest. Following the ideals of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, I have taken this step. I will not allow the land mafia or corrupt officials to carry out their nefarious activities, he said.

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha reaffirmed his resolve to act firmly against land mafia and corruption

Sinha made it clear that any officer or employee within the department who attempts to obstruct action against the land mafia would be treated as indirectly supporting illegal activities. He drew a sharp distinction between honest officials and those complicit in corruption. Honest officers working in public interest will not face any problem. But those siding with the mafia will face strict action, he warned.

Recently, during a Land Reform Public Dialogue Programme, the Deputy Chief Minister indicated that errant Circle Officers (COs) and other officials could face suspension if found guilty of irregularities. He stressed that all action would be evidence-based and in accordance with the law, adding that there would be zero tolerance for corruption in the land and revenue department.

Cong' Kanhaiya Kumar marks Gandhi Jayanti as 'Balidan Diwas

RAIPUR

Congress leader Kanhaiya Kumar terms Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary as 'Balidan Diwas' and urges people to remember Bapu's ideals of truth and non-violence amid rising politics of hatred. Speaking to reporters, Kumar said, Today is the 'Balidan Diwas' of Mahatma Gandhi. The entire country and the world remember him today and resolve to follow the path of truth and non-violence that he showed. This is a very good opportunity for us to remember Mahatma Gandhi's sacrifice and to unite and struggle against the Godse-ite politics prevailing in the country, and to strengthen the nation by taking it forward on a better path through democratic means, he said.

ECI has Expressed Mixed Reactions on West Bengal SIR

KOLKATA

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has expressed mixed reactions to the current phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal, particularly the hearings on claims and objections to the draft voters' list.

While the Commission is happy with the progress of the hearing sessions, it has raised serious concerns over the slow uploading of supporting identity documents submitted by voters who appeared for the hearings.

Of the 1.62 crore voters summoned for hearing, including unmapped voters and logical discrepancy cases, the hearing process had been completed for around 1.42 crore voters. However, only 59 lakh voters' documents have been uploaded so far, according to an official from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), West Bengal.

This slow pace of uploading had raised apprehensions about whether the scheduled February 14 deadline for publication of the final electoral roll can be met, ot it will have to be extended.

Officials in CEO office said one of the main reasons behind the slow pace of document uploading is the repeated violation of the ECI's guideline to accept and upload only the listed identity-proof documents by a section of the electoral officers in the state, especially the electoral registration officers (EROs), assistant electoral registration officers (AEROs), and booth-level officers (BLOs).

The full bench of the Commission is holding a marathon virtual meeting on Friday with the top officials from the CEO's office and the Commission-appointed special roll observers to identify the lapses in conducting the revision exercise that might delay the scheduled process. The meeting started at 11:30 a.m. and is expected to continue for several hours.

Sources said that during the course of the meeting, the ECI is expected to give an ultimatum on accepting unlisted documents by electoral officers.

The ECI has already warned that EROs, AEROs, and BLOs found guilty of deliberate violations in accepting or uploading unapproved documents will face stringent disciplinary action.

RRTS impractical, a waste of money: Metroman Sreedharan slams Kerala project

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Noted technocrat E. Sreedharan on Friday launched a stinging attack on the Kerala government's newly-announced Thiruvananthapuram–Kasaragod Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) project, calling it impractical, technically flawed and a sheer waste of public money, in an apparent rebuttal to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's remarks a day earlier. Sreedharan said the RRTS proposal had no real utility for Kerala and was inferior even to a semi-high-speed rail project.

Someone has misled the government. This is nothing but an attempt to throw dust in the public's eyes, he said, adding that mere announcements would not translate into viable projects.

He argued that the RRTS could realistically be implemented only on the Thiruvananthapuram–Chengannur stretch, and extending it beyond that would require reducing train speeds, defeating the very purpose of the system.

If speed has to be cut, what is the point of such a project? he asked. Referring to the abandoned high-speed rail proposal, Sreedharan said he had personally discussed the project with the Chief Minister earlier.

While CM Vijayan had expressed satisfaction and even deputed officials, the State government later hesitated to formally approach the Centre.

The Left government itself had taken the initiative earlier. Why this sudden shift now? he asked.

Sreedharan also pointed out that while the State's assistance was not required for surveys, government support was crucial for land acquisition, without which no rail project could move forward.

He said the shift from high-speed rail to RRTS reflected technical failure and lack of clarity in policy thinking.

His comments came a day after CM Vijayan, speaking at the Loka Kerala Sabha, said the Railway Ministry had denied approval for Kerala's proposed high-speed rail corridor, forcing the State to explore alternatives such as RRTS.

Stepfathers kill stepsons in Delhi-NCR in two separate incidents

NEW DELHI

The Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) has been shaken by two separate, horrific incidents of domestic violence in which stepfathers allegedly murdered their young stepsons. The killings, occurring in Delhi's Shastri Park and Haryana's Faridabad, have left local communities in shock due to the extreme nature of the violence reported.

In Northeast Delhi, a 12-year-old seventh-grader named Altamash was found murdered in a forested area. The boy's stepfather is accused of luring him away from school before attacking him with a sharp weapon. Police sources indicate the victim was not only killed but had his eyes gouged out and sustained a fractured hand.

The victim's mother revealed that the suspect had frequently issued death threats against her children, though she initially dismissed them as empty rhetoric. He had always had a problem with my children, she stated.

He brought my son from school and killed him. He even informed me after the act via a video call.

The victim's brother, Aman, discovered the crime after the suspect allegedly shared a photograph of the body around 3:00 AM. While the body has been sent to the Guru Teg Bahadur (GTB) Hospital mortuary for a post-mortem examination, the suspect remains at large. Delhi Police have deployed forensic teams and are currently questioning several associates to track the absconding accused.

In Haryana, police in Faridabad's Sector 58 have arrested a man for the brutal murder of his two-year-old stepson on January 25. The victim was one of three children from his mother's first marriage.

According to investigators, the stepfather had a history of hostility towards the child, often subjecting him to physical abuse over minor issues. On the day of the incident, the toddler was beaten so severely that he was rendered unconscious. Though family members rushed him to the hospital, he was declared dead on arrival.

5 arrested for drug peddling in J&K

SRINAGAR

Police have arrested five people in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla and Pulwama districts as part of their ongoing crackdown on drug smuggling and peddling, officials said on Friday. In a statement, police said Sopore Police in Baramulla achieved a major breakthrough in an NDPS case by arresting additional accused and recovering more contraband, pointing to a wider drug network.

The arrests were made in connection with FIR No. 23/2026 registered under Sections 8/22–29 of the NDPS Act and Section 281 of the BNS at Police Station Sopore. Based on disclosures by earlier arrested accused, police apprehended Mohd Umar Dar, son of Ghulam Nabi Dar, and Nisar Ahmad Bhat alias Shanu, son of Mehraj-ud-Din Bhat, both residents of Naseem Bagh, Sopore. Acting on their disclosures, a substantial quantity of Codeine Phosphate bottles was recovered.

In a separate action, Police Post Hadipora under Police Station Dangiwacha apprehended Farooq Ahmad Malla of Hadipora after recovering a charas-like substance during naka checking. Further investigation is underway.

Bhavnath Mahashivratri Fair to Be Grandest Ever: Gujarat Deputy CM

JUNAGARH

The annual Bhavnath Mahashivratri Fair, held at the foothills of Girnar in Junagadh, is set to become its grandest and most memorable edition so far, Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi said on Friday. The spiritually significant fair will be held from February 11 to February 15. Chairing a high-level review meeting with sadhus, saints and senior administrative officials, Sanghavi assessed preparations to ensure the smooth conduct of the fair, which is often described as a mini Kumbh because of its religious importance and large congregation of ascetics and devotees.

For the first time, the arrival of sadhus and saints will be marked by a grand city procession featuring a divine-themed ceremonial entry on February 11. The initiative is aimed at giving devotees an opportunity to witness the arrival of ascetics in a more elaborate and devotional atmosphere.

Sanghavi said that under the guidance of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, the state government is ensuring extensive arrangements for devotees and ascetics. To accommodate larger crowds and improve visibility of the Naga sadhu procession, the traditional Ravedi route has been extended by 500 metres, increasing its total length from 1.5 km to 2 km. The entire procession route will be decorated on the theme of Lord Bhole Nath, transforming the city into a vibrant devotional space. Special emphasis is being placed on security and crowd management to ensure a safe experience for pilgrims.

CPI(M) BOOK CONTROVERSY

Expelled CPI(M) Leader V. Kunjikrishnan Seeks Police Protection

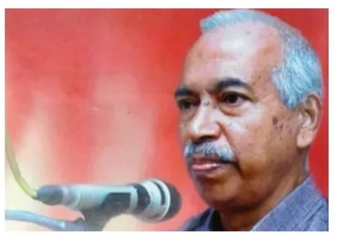
KOCHI

Senior Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader V. Kunjikrishnan, who was expelled from the party earlier this week, approached the Kerala High Court on Friday seeking police protection for the release of his forthcoming book, which contains sharp criticism of the party leadership.

Speaking to the media at his residence in Payyannur, Kunjikrishnan clarified that his plea before the court was limited strictly to ensuring security for the book release function scheduled for Wednesday. I wish to clarify that the protection that I have sought is just for the book release function. Since it's a public function, I did not want it to be disturbed. I approached the court because it would provide a more concrete direction, he said.

The petition comes just days ahead of the publication of his book, which makes serious allegations against the Communist Party of India (Marxist) leadership and accuses the party of ideological degeneration. Titled Nethruthvathe Anikal Thiruthanam (The Cadre Must Correct the Leadership), the book offers a scathing critique of the CPI(M)'s functioning at the state level.

Kunjikrishnan was expelled on Monday from the party's primary membership after reiterating allegations of irregularities related to the Dhanaraj Martyrs' Fund. His statements triggered a major controversy within the CPI(M)'s Kannur district unit. Announcing the expulsion, CPI(M) Kannur District Secretary K.K. Ragesh accused him of betraying the party and acting as a weapon in the hands of party enemies, particularly by giving interviews to a private television channel ahead of elections.



The party leadership has maintained that the allegations raised by Kunjikrishnan were examined and settled internally as early as April 2022. It described his actions as driven by personal animosity towards Payyannur MLA and district secretariat member T.I. Madhusoodanan. Ragesh said an internal inquiry found the charges to be baseless and asserted that Madhusoodanan had no role in handling the funds in question.

While acknowledging certain lapses such as typographical errors and missing receipt books, the party claimed there was no financial loss and said disciplinary action had already been taken at the appropriate level.

Wings India Exhibition Reflects Global Confidence: Ram Mohan Naidu

HYDERABAD

Union Minister for Civil Aviation K. Ram Mohan Naidu on Friday said the Wings India exhibition stands as a strong testament to the world's confidence in India's aviation growth story, highlighting the country's rapid transformation into a globally competitive aviation ecosystem.

Sharing his experience at the exhibition organised as part of Wings India, the minister said the event offered a vibrant and immersive showcase of the scale, diversity and ambition of India's civil aviation sector. The summit entered its third day at Begumpet Airport, drawing participation from across the

global aviation industry.

Posting on social media platform X, Naidu said he visited several exhibition stalls and interacted closely with industry leaders, innovators and start-ups who are shaping the future of aviation. He described the exhibition as a comprehensive display of India's growing capabilities across multiple segments of the aviation value chain.

During his visit, the minister also experienced the Airbus H125 helicopter simulator, calling it an impressive demonstration of advanced aviation technology and pilot training capabilities. He said such technologies underline India's progress in adopting cutting-edge systems that meet global standards.

Naidu noted that he visited stalls set up by leading organisations such as Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, AI Engineering Services Limited, and Pawan Hans, along with many other Indian and international aviation companies and start-ups. These exhibitors showcased innovations spanning aircraft manufacturing, maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO), drones, pilot training, sustainability initiatives and airport infrastructure.

The depth of innovation on display reflects India's steady progress from being a fast-growing aviation market to becoming a comprehensive and globally competitive aviation ecosystem, the minister said. He added that the country is no longer just a market for aviation services but is increasingly emerging as a hub for innovation, manufacturing and skill development.

Highlighting the global scale of the event, Naidu said Wings India has attracted delegates from over 120 countries, with participation from all major global aviation brands.

Supreme Court Quashes Criminal Case Against Advocate

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court of India has quashed criminal proceedings against an advocate accused of criminal intimidation in a sexual assault case, holding that vague and belated allegations, coupled with an improved statement of the prosecutrix, were insufficient in law to put him on trial.

A Bench comprising Justices Aravind Kumar and Prasanna B. Varale allowed the appeal filed by advocate Beri Manoj and set aside an order of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, which had earlier declined to quash the proceedings at the pre-trial stage.

The appellant had been arrayed as accused number five in a first information report (FIR) registered in 2022 under Sections 328, 376 and 506 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), read with Sections 3 and 4 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The apex court, however, noted that the principal allegation against the appellant was limited to criminal intimidation under Section 506 IPC.

After examining the case record, the Bench observed that in the prosecutrix's statement recorded under Section 161 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), there was no allegation whatsoever that the appellant had issued any threat. The court noted that it was only after a gap of seven days, in a statement recorded under Section 164 CrPC, that the appellant's name appeared through a general and unspecific allegation. We notice at the initial stage itself that in the statement recorded under Section 161 of the CrPC, the prosecutrix, for reasons best known, has not even whispered of any threat having been posed by the appellant, the court said.

The Bench described the subsequent statement as an improvement and pointed out that it merely reproduced a broad allegation that Chandu Tej's father, uncle and two aunts came there and threatened me. The court held that this contradiction in the timing and content of the allegations created serious doubt about the prosecution's version.

Two killed in Araria road accident

PATNA

A tragic road accident in Bihar's Araria district early Friday claimed the lives of two young men, including an SSB jawan, plunging two families into grief. The incident occurred on the Araria-Raniganj main road near the Girhinda showroom when a speeding Bullet motorcycle collided with a police jeep parked on the roadside. The deceased have been identified as Sudhir Kumar Kushwaha (42), a resident of Araria RS Ward No. 4, and Vicky Kumar Jaiswal (35), a resident of Forbesganj Training School Chowk, Ward No. 21. Sudhir Kumar Kushwaha was posted with the 52nd Battalion of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) at Araria headquarters.

Punjabi Folk Orchestra to jazz up Bharat Parv at Red Fort

NEW DELHI

Performances by the Punjabi Folk Orchestra and Qalandri Dhamal will present the musical and spiritual heritage of the state at Bharat Parv 2026 at the historic Red Fort on Saturday, an official said. The Punjabi Folk Orchestra is a unique ensemble developed using a wide range of traditional Punjabi folk instruments such as Dhol, Dholki, Taal-Koze, Tansari, Flute, Nagara, Chimta, Sap, Kara, and Vanjli, the official from Ministry of Tourism said.

Ahmedabad hosts tribal handicrafts and herbal exhibition

AHMEDABAD

A Traditional Tribal Handicrafts, Food and Herbal Products Sales and Exhibition Fair was inaugurated at the Sabarmati Riverfront on Friday, showcasing the rich cultural heritage, crafts, and traditional knowledge of Gujarat's tribal communities. The fair will remain open to the public until February 3. Tribal Development Minister Naresh Patel inaugurated the exhibition, which is being organised by the Gujarat Tribal Research and Training Society under the Tribal Development Department.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, S. Jayalakshmi, W/o. K. Sekaran, aged about 57 years, residing at No.24, 2nd Main, Shamanna Gowda Layout Saraswathipuram, HAL 2nd Stage, Bengaluru 560008, have changed my name from **J. Jeyalakshmi** to **S. JAYALAKSHMI** vide affidavit sworn to before the Notary S.I. Balaguru, Advocate on 12-01-2026 at Bengaluru.

IN COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL CIVIL AND JMFC JUDGE AT HOSKOTE
C.MIS NO: 399/2025

Applicants: SYED BABA JAN BIN LATE SYED GAFFAR SAB Aged about 53 years No. 210 near Ambedkar Nagar near Government School, Vijaypur, Dooravaninagar, Bangalore-560016.

Respondant: Registrar of Birth and Deaths, Tahasildar, Hosakote Taluk.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

It is hereby notified to the public that the above petitioner has filed an application in the court stating that the applicant's grandfather, late syed Ahmed Saab S/o Late Syed Gafar Saab, died on 21.12.1982 at this address, Sulibele Village & Hobli, Hosakote Taluk and since there are no official records of his death, he has filed an application under the registration of Birth and Death Act, 1969 to register the date of death in the birth and death records of the respondent. Therefore, if the public has any objection, we hereby inform you to appear before the above Principal Civil Judge on 21st February 2026 at 11:00 AM. Failing which, the case will be disposed of ex parte in his absence.

The said publication is dated: 29.01.2026 with my signature and the seal of the court.

By order of the Court
Sheristedar, Civil Judge & J.M.F.C. Hoskote
Counsel for the Petitioner: **Chandrashekara. K**, Lawyers, R.B.Law Chambers, No. 76/18, Thotagere, Dasanpur Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is given to the General public from Sri.H.Sathyanarayana son of B.Hanumanthachar, resident of Ashok Road, Hiriyur Town, Chitradurga Dist, At the time ofGift deed dt.06.10.2025, from his father B.Hanumanthachar, he had handed over original Registered Sale deed dt 24.03.2000, Regd No.2512/1999/2000 and original registered Supplementary deed dt.20.01.2005, registered as No.HYR-1-02537/2004-05. Unfortunately I am lost the above said original deeds at Hiriyur Taluk office, In this regard I have lodged online complaint police department, lost Report No.2033998/2026. Hence anybody having title interest, and right in any manner over the schedule property and I am currently taking a loan from the Techfino Capital Private Itd, Hiriyur. If anyone has the above original documents, please bring them. Schedule: House Property bearing municipal A.No: 2293/101/477 and having E-Katha No.12-1-36, measuring East-West: 18.592837 meter, North-South: 13.716027 meter, situated at Ward No.1, Challakere Road, Hiriyur Town, Chitradurga Dist.

Sri.H.Sathyanarayana S/o Hanumanthachar, resident of Ashok Road, Hiriyur Town, Chitradurga Dist.
Mobile No: 9845430501

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DEVANAHALLI
CRL.Misc. No. 585/2025

Between: Smt Chikkamuniyamma Petitioner And: The Tahsildar, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District Respondent

PUBLIC NOTICE

I the undersigned advocate on behalf of my client namely Smt.Chikkamuniyamma D/o Late. Muniyappa, aged about 76 years, R/at:- Chandenahalli village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District have filed the above petition for the death certificate of Late.Muniyappa S/o Late.Eerappa who died on 12.09.1985 at Chandenahalli village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. If any parties who have objections may dispute regarding the same can appear before the Hon'ble Additional Civil Judge and JMFC at Devanahalli and the date of hearing on 06.04.2026 at 11.00 A.M. in **C.Mis No. 585/2025.**

By the order of this Hon'ble court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Civil Judge & JMFC Court, Devanahalli
Address for service: **Sri.M.M.Srinivas**, Advocate, Office at:- 1st floor, Narayanachar complex, Sulibele Road, Devanahalli Town, Bengaluru Rural District

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the general public that our client, Shreevi Developers Pvt. Ltd., having its office/address at Nandagokula Nilaya, Bachahalli Village, Kundana Post, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District (Contact No: +91 9845582290), intends to purchase the schedule properties mentioned below.

The current owners, Shree Gangadharappa, S/o Hanumayya (resident of Jalahalli Village, Rampura Hobli, Chikkaballapura District) and Shree K.B. Rajkumar, S/o Banappa (resident of Kondavadi Village, Puravara Post, Madhugiri Taluk, Tumakuru District), have represented to our client that they are the absolute owners of the schedule properties, having acquired the same through inheritance.

Any person(s) having any right, title, interest, or claim of any nature over the said properties, or any objection to the proposed sale, is hereby required to lodge such objections/claims along with supporting documentary evidence with the undersigned within three (3) days from the date of publication of this notice.

If no objections are received within the stipulated period, it shall be deemed that the schedule properties are free from all encumbrances, and our client will proceed with the purchase.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

Property 01: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy. No. 14, situated at KG Devapala Village, Saasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, measuring 5 Acres 07 Guntas. This is converted land for warehouse purposes and is bounded as follows: East by: Sy. No. 19 and attached Kharab West by: Property of N. Sheshadri North by: Sy. No. 12 and attached Kharab South by: Road, Sy. No. 28, and Sy. No. 30

Property 02: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy. No. 31/2, situated at KG Devapala Village, Saasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, measuring 3 Acres 16 Guntas. This is converted land for warehouse purposes and is bounded as follows: East by: Sy. No. 12, Sy. No. 30, and attached Kharab West by: Property of N. Sheshadri North by: Sy. No. 26 and attached Kharab South by: Road, Sy. No. 28, and Sy. No. 30

A. VASANTH KUMARA, ADVOCATE, M.Sc.,LLB
R.S. Jagadesha Bldg., Court Road, Vinayaka Nagara
Doddaballapura-561203.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, N JAGADISH alias JAGADISH N alias N JAGADEESH S/o MANJAPPA, R/o 120, Market Road, Sorab, Shivamogga, Karnataka-577429, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as JAGADEESH.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUNANDA PG alias MS SUNANDA W/o JAGADEESH, R/o Market Road, Sorab, Shimoga, Karnataka-577429, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SUNANDA N.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Rajanna S/o late Hanumappa, aged about 60 years, R/at Yadahalli village, Balla post, Avani Hobli, Mulbagal Taluk, Kolar District, do herby solemnly affirm and state on oath follws:

I sward Xerox the said documents in Xerox center bus-stand, Mulbagal town, I have lost the entire documents file relating to the below said item no 1 to 17 documents on 20-12-2025 with my best efforts I could not trace out the same.

1. 25-11-2002	No.2153/2002-03
2. 29-04-2001	No.225/2011-12
3. 6/3/2006	No.1802/2005-06
4. 26-12-2012	No.4270/2012-13
5. 6/8/2013	No.2198/2013-14
6. 24-11-2015	No.2876/205-16
7. 27-03-2013	No.6629/2012-13
8. 22-12-2015	No.3299/2015-16
9. 4/2/2014	No.4763/2013-14
10. 22-12-2015	No.3298/2015-16
11. 28-02-2014	No.5268/2013-14
12. 24-11-2015	No.2877/2015-16
13. 15-09-2014	No.2865/2014-15
14. 18-06-2015	No.927/2015-16
15. 9/11/2015	No.2708/2015-16
16. 2/5/2013	No.639/2013-14
17. 25-11-2015	No.2906/2015-16

ZILLA PANCHAYATH, TUMKUR

Office of Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Madhugiri

Tender notification no:18/2025-26 **Dated:27-01-2026**

Behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Tender for Various works under Various Head of accounts of **P.R.E. Division, Madhugiri** have been published in e portal. Registered and Eligible contractors may submit the bids within **03-02-2026 upto 16.00 PM** through e procurement website.Maximum Amount of Work is **125.00 Lakhs** For more details Contact **Ph. 080-25501216, 080-25501227 or visit KPP PORTAL**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
P.R.E. Division, Madhugiri

DIPR/TUM/RO-238/25-26/Oysters

Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Special Division Ramanagara

No. EE/PWD/RMN Spl.Div./TND-20/2025-26 Date : 29.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited in two stage system from the eligible **contractors for 08 works** from **Rs. 305.00 Lakhs to Rs.800.00 Lakhs** through e-procurement portal as per the Standard bid documents. The eligible contractors can participate in this tender through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Documents may be downloaded from **02.02.2026 to 16.02.2026**. Last date for submission of tender **16.02.2026 upto 16.00 hours.** Date of Pre-bid meeting **10.02.2026 at 11.30 Hours.** Date of opening of Technical bid **17.02.2026 (If possible) at 16.30 hours.** Tender Processing Fees, EMD as per E-Procurement. For more information contact the undersigned during Office Hours.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD Special Division, Ramanagara

DIPR/SAD/601/SA/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi

No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-1/TENDER/2025-26/6406 DATE: 29/01/2026

E-Tender Notification (Call-2)

Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise e-Re-Tenders from Registration in KPWD Department authorized by Karnataka Government for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 3 works under head of account 5054–Major District Roads Improvements, amount put to tender is minimum of Rs. 74.40 Lakhs and maximum of Rs. 80.00 Lakhs.

Calendar of events:1)Last date for queries & clarifications : 11-02-2026up to 5.30 PM, 2)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 13-02-2026up to 5.00 PM, 3)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 16-02-2026at 4.30 PM, 4)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids", 5)If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from kppp.karnataka.gov.in& departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikodi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1727/KSMCA/2025-26

BENGALURU SMART INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED

Office of the Superintendent Engineer-02
Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited,
N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002

No: SE-2/BSMILE/TEND/03/2025-26/Call-3 Date: 30-01-2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) Call-3 (Two Cover System)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Superintendent Engineer-02, Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited- White Topping Division on behalf of the Chief Commissioner, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), invites Proposals (Technical and Financial) for appointing Agency for Availing Graduate/Diploma Engineers for Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited Wing.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Availing Graduate/Diploma Engineers for Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited- White Topping division **Amount put to Tender (Including GST) : ₹.84.49 Lakhs, EMD: 50,000.00**

Calendar of Events : (1) Availability of RFP Documents from **31-01-2026** onwards (2) Date of Pre-bid meeting on **03-02-2026** at **3:30** pm. (3) Last date for uploading filled proposals is **07-02-2026** before **4:00** pm (4) Date of Opening of Technical proposals is **09-02-2026** at **11:30** am. (5) Date of Opening of Financial proposals after Approval of Technical Proposals through KPPP

Sd/- Superintendenting Engineer-02
Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited
Greater Bengaluru Authority

Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND SPORTS

State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru - 560001.
Tel : 080-22215601, 22211246, Fax: 080 22215602

No: DYES/Engg/AP/168/2025-26 Date: 29.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

Subject:- The Assistasnt Executive Engineer, Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, State Youth Centre Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore-560 001, KARNATAKA INDIA invites Tender to take up the various works at Chamarajanagara, haveri & Bidar districts, Karnataka through E- Procurement Portal.

Particulars : 1) Construction of a women's sports hostel building in santhemaralli, chamarajanagara district. Amount put to Tender : **Rs. 206.87 Lakhs** EMD : **Rs 3,10,311/-.** Last Date and Time for Submission of bid: **19.02.2026 time 16.00 Hrs,** Date and Time for Opening of technical bid : **20.02.2026 time 16.30 Hrs. 2)** Development works at Ranebennur taluk Stadium in haveri district. Amount put to Tender : **Rs. 81.05 Lakhs** EMD : **Rs 1,62,113/-.** Last Date and Time for Submission of bid: **07.02.2026 time 16.30 Hrs,** Date and Time for Opening of technical bid : **09.02.2026 time 11.30 Hrs. 3)** Development work on infrastructure in the district stadium, Chamarajanagar. Amount put to Tender : **Rs. 557.53 Lakhs** EMD : **Rs 8,36,298/-.** Last Date and Time for Submission of bid: **23.02.2026 time 16.00 Hrs,** Date and Time for Opening of technical bid : **24.02.2026 time 16.30 Hrs. 4)** Various developmental works at sports hostel, Bidar (Call-2). Amount put to Tender : **Rs. 84.40 Lakhs,** EMD : **Rs 1,68,820/-.** Last Date and Time for Submission of bid: **09.02.2026 time 16.00 Hrs,** Date and Time for Opening of technical bid : **10.02.2026 time 16.30 Hrs.**

The Tender shall be submitted through e-Procurement Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Vendors need to register in the e-Procurement Portal to submit their bids online. The tender document can be viewed free of cost from the e-Procurement Portal.

Additional information may be obtained during office hours at the above mentioned Address

Sd/-
Assistant Executive Engineer
Dept. of Youth Empowerment and Sports
(Tender Inviting Authority)

DIPR/CP/5302/Zen/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ: ಐಎಫ್‌ಟಿ–37/ಎಇ–1/2025–26/ ದಿನಾಂಕ:– 30.01.2026.

ಅವಧಿ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವಿಷಯ : ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅವಧಿ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ: ಕಚೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಕಾಅ/ದಾವಿದಾ/ಐ.ಎಫ್.ಟಿ–37/ಎಇ–1/2025–26/ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.01.2026

ಈ ಕಚೇರಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಐಎಫ್‌ಟಿ–37/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ 28.01.2026ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.1 ಮತ್ತು 4ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತೆ ಮುಂದೂಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ (ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 08192 234951, 231530) ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

	ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ 1ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ	ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ 4ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ
1. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕ :	30.01.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ	30.01.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
2. ಪ್ರಿಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ಸ್ಥಳ : ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಲೋಇ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಪಿ.ಬಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ, ದಿನಾಂಕ	02.02.2026 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ	02.02.2026 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
3. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ :	13.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ	06.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
4. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ :	16.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ	07.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
5. ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ :	18.02.2026 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ	10.02.2026 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/694/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Department of Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development
Office of the Executive Engineer
M.I. & GWD Division, Mysore

On behalf of the Governer of Karnataka, the Executive Engineer, M.I. & GWD Division, Mysore invites tenders from registered and eligible contractors under "Kppp" Portal as per the terms and conditions prescribed in standard tender documents of KW1 and 2 for 3 works, minimum tender amount Rs.150.00 lakhs, maxmium tender amount Rs.200.00 Lakhs and EMD amount minimum Rs.1.89 lakhs and maximum amount Rs.2.25 lakhs. The other tender details are given below. Any information regarding this tender may be obtained from this office during office hours up to: Date: 07.02.2026 – 5-30 PM. Last date to upload the tenders with the prescribed E.M.D and requisite documents through website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in: Date: 09.02.2026 – 5-30 PM. The bids will be opened: Date: 11.02.2026 – 11-00 AM

Note: All the rights are reserved for postponement or cancellation of all bids or any individual bids of this tender notification without assigning any reasons by the under signed. The terms and conditions for each work is published in the "Kppp" Tender Portal. Any corrigendum pertains to above tender will be published in e-Procurement Portal only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division, Mysore
DIPR/DDMYS/1581/KSMCA/895/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

No.4, Seshadri Road, Bangalore-560009,
Phone: 080-22262263, E-mail: phq.prisons-kar@gov.in

Tender Notification

The Director General of Police, Prisons and Correctional Services, Bangalore invited the following tender for Supply, installation and maintenance of **Desktop Computers** and **Sewing Machines** for various Prisons as under.

No.	Tender No. and Date	approx. Tender value
1	PCSD/2025-26/IND0264, Dt. 29.01.2026	Rs.21.15 Lakhs
2	PCSD/2025-26/IND0265, Dt. 29.01.2026	Rs.12.60 Lakhs

The information of Pre-bid meeting, last date and time for tender submission and other details can be obtained at e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For more information, please contact the above office.

Sd/-
Director General of Police
Prisons and Correctional Services
Karnataka State

DIPR/CP/5295/Shirdi Sai/2025-26

ALTUM CREDO HOME FINANCE PRIVATE LTD

Regd. Office: Floor No. 7, Kalpataru Infinia, Wakdewadi, Shivajinagar, Pune - 411005. Maharashtra (India)

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitization And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. The undersigned is the authorized officer of **Altum Credo Home Finance Pvt. Ltd. (ACHFL)**.Under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (The said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, the authorized officer has issued demand notices under 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the borrower(s) [The "said borrower(s)"], to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective demand notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the said borrower(s) to pay to **Altum Credo Home Finance Pvt. Ltd. (ACHFL)**, within sixty days from the publication of this notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said demand notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said borrower(s). As Security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to **Altum Credo Home Finance Pvt. Ltd. (ACHFL)** by the said borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) Loan Account Number
1. Mariyamma (Applicant), **2. Nataraja** (Co-Applicant), **LAN: 1192020100203**

Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA Date
06.01.2026 / Rs. 4,56,249/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Fifty Six Thousand Two Hundred Forty Nine Only) as on **05.01.2026 (NPA) on 06.01.2026**

Description Of Secured Assets (Immovable Property)
All that piece and parcel of Old Property No. 209/B209/B, E Swathu No 151200401000220584, measuring 3.96 X 12.19 Mts i.e 48.27 Sq Mts Situated at Gundagathi Village, gundagathi Gram Panchayath, Harapanahalli, **East:** Property of Pakiramma, **West:** Property of Huchengamma, **North:** Road, **South:** Road.

Name of the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) Loan Account Number
1. Y Manjunatha (Applicant), **2. Renukamma** (Co-Applicant), **LAN: 16620232500024**

Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA Date
06.01.2026 / Rs. 14,44,075/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Forty Four Thousand Seventy Five Only) as on **05.01.2026 (NPA) on 06.01.2026**

Description Of Secured Assets (Immovable Property)
All the piece and parcel of Property bearing Site No. 6/1, As per TMC Form K. M. F. 24, (Rule 53(1)(A)) Assessment/Katha/ Property No.1104/486/6/1, Situated at Janatha Colony, Jigani Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, Presently Comes under the Limits of Jigani TMC, Ward No. 23, Measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 30 feet, in all measuring 900 Square Feet, and along with building constructed thereon, **East:** Site No. 6 belongs to Nagaraju, **West:** Property belongs to Chinnamma, **North:** Property belongs to Chinnamma, **South:** House belongs to Tailor Raja.

Name of the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) Loan Account Number
1. Nagendra A. Y. (Applicant), **2. Bhagyamma G. S.** (Co-Applicant), **LAN: S166209000004**

Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA Date
06.01.2026 / Rs. 3,80,641/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Eighty Thousand Six Hundred Forty One Only) as on **05.01.2026 (NPA) on 06.01.2026**

Description Of Secured Assets (Immovable Property)
Property Bering Southern Portion Site No .152, Khata No. 581/152 PID NO. 150200100200101006, Bidaraguppe Village, Attibele, Anekal, Bangalore Dist 562125, **East:** Site No. 207, **West:** Road, **North:** Site No. 152 Remaining Portion, **South:** Site No. 151.

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
Altum Credo Home Finance Pvt. Ltd. (ACHFL)

Place : Harapanahalli / Bangalore, Karnataka
Date : 31.01.2026

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

QUICK READ

Thailand's Natthaphong is frontrunner ahead of February vote

Bangkok

Thailand's progressive People's Party leader Natthaphong Ruengpanyawut continued to lead opinion polls on Friday, highlighting the stiff challenge facing Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul's bid to stay in power ahead of elections on February 8. February's vote has settled into a three-way race between Anutin's conservative Bhumjaithai Party, the former ruling Pheu Thai Party and the reformist People's Party. A poll by Suan Dusit University published on Friday said Natthaphong was backed by 35.1% of respondents, with Anutin coming in third with 16.1%, behind Pheu Thai's candidate for prime minister Yoshanan Wongsawat at 21.5%. The poll surveyed 26,621 people from the January 16 to 28 period.

Ukraine ready to reciprocate if Russia stops energy attacks

Kyiv

Ukraine is ready to reciprocate if Russia halts its attacks on the country's energy infrastructure that has plunged the capital Kyiv into cold, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said on Friday, adding there was no formal truce between the two countries. U.S. President Donald Trump said on Thursday that Russian President Vladimir Putin had agreed not to fire on Kyiv for a week due to cold weather. Temperatures in the Ukrainian capital are forecast to plunge as low as minus 26 degrees Celsius on Sunday.

China coast guard patrolled Japan-held islands

Beijing

China's coast guard patrolled Japan-administered islands in the East China Sea almost daily last year, it said on Friday, aiming to secure its sovereignty over the remote, rocky outpost and to deter Taiwan from taking steps toward independence. The patrols near the tiny islands - known as the Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China - could add to tensions as Beijing and Tokyo are embroiled in their biggest diplomatic dispute in more than a decade after Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said Japan might intervene if China attacked Taiwan. China claims democratically governed Taiwan as its territory and has never renounced use of force to reunify with the island. Taiwan's government rejects China's sovereignty claim and says only the island's people can decide their own fate.

Trump Warns Britain Over China Ties as Starmer Seeks Economic Reset

Britain's China outreach sparks warnings from U.S. President Donald Trump as Prime Minister Keir Starmer defends reset strategy.

BEIJING

U.S. President Donald Trump has cautioned Britain against deepening its economic engagement with Beijing, describing such moves as dangerous at a time of heightened global competition and strategic rivalry. His remarks came as British Prime Minister Keir Starmer visited China, underscoring a growing divergence in how Western allies approach relations with the world's second-largest economy.

Starmer, the latest Western leader to travel to Beijing amid uncertainty created by Trump's often unpredictable foreign policy positions, used the visit to argue for a pragmatic rebalancing of ties. During three-hour talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping,

the British leader called for what he described as a more sophisticated relationship between the two countries. The discussions covered a broad agenda, ranging from improved market access and lower tariffs to fresh investment agreements, while also touching on softer cultural themes such as football and Shakespeare.

The British government has framed the visit as part of a broader effort to revive trade and attract investment at a time when domestic economic pressures remain high. Officials accompanying Starmer stressed that resetting relations does not mean abandoning concerns over security, human rights, or fair competition, but rather managing differences while pursuing tangible economic benefits.

Trump's warning reflects a tougher stance long advocated by Washington, which has repeatedly urged allies to reduce economic dependence on Beijing and guard against potential security risks. His comments are likely to resonate with policymakers who view China's global ambitions with suspicion and favor a more confrontational approach.

However, Starmer's visit highlights a contrasting calculation in London. By engaging directly with China, Britain hopes to secure new opportunities for exporters, investors, and financial services, even as it navigates its post-Brexit trading landscape. Supporters argue that selective engagement can deliver growth without compromising national interests.

Syrian Government and Kurdish-Led SDF Announce Ceasefire

Syria's government and Kurdish-led forces reached a ceasefire, easing tensions after weeks of fighting reshaped control across northeast regions.

RAQQA

The Syrian government and the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) announced a ceasefire agreement on Friday that aims to prevent a potentially devastating battle in the country's northeast, while setting out a roadmap for the gradual integration of Kurdish forces into the state's security framework.

The deal comes after rapid advances by government troops loyal to President Ahmed al-Sharaa, who this month captured large swathes of northern and eastern Syria previously held by the SDF. Those gains forced the Kurdish-led group to retreat into an increasingly narrow enclave, dramatically altering the balance of power in a region that has long been one of the most complex theatres of Syria's conflict.

The future of the SDF has loomed as one of the most critical unresolved questions since Islamist fighters led by Sharaa toppled former president Bashar al-Assad around 14 months ago. At its height, the SDF controlled roughly a quarter of Syrian territory, including key oil fields and major population centres in the northeast, making its status central to any durable political settlement.

According to the terms announced, forces amassed along northern front lines will begin to pull back, reducing the immediate risk of clashes. In a significant shift, Interior Ministry security units will deploy into the centres of the northeastern cities of Hasakah and Qamishli, both of which have until now remained under SDF control. The move is intended to reassert state authority while avoiding a direct military confrontation inside densely populated urban areas.

The agreement was welcomed by international mediators, particularly the United States. U.S. envoy Tom Barrack, who has been closely involved in behind-the-scenes negotiations, described the deal as a profound and historic milestone in Syria's journey toward national reconciliation, unity, and enduring stability. His remarks underscore Washington's interest in preventing further bloodshed and fragmentation in Syria, especially in regions that have been relatively stable in recent years.

Myanmar's military-aligned party clinched a sweeping election victory, reinforcing political control amid civil war and widespread repression.

Myanmar Military-Backed Party Secures Landslide Victory

NAYPYITAW

Myanmar's military-backed political force has completed a decisive sweep of the country's three-phase general election, according to state media, cementing an outcome widely anticipated after a tightly managed political process conducted amid ongoing civil war and severe restrictions on opposition activity.

The Union and Solidarity Party (USDP), which is aligned with the country's powerful armed forces, dominated all phases of the vote, winning an overwhelming majority in both chambers of the national legislature. Official results released on Thursday and Friday showed the party securing 232 of the 263 contested seats in the lower house, the Pyithu Hluttaw, and 109 of the 157 seats announced so far in the upper chamber, the Amyotha Hluttaw.

The scale of the victory effectively guarantees the USDP firm control over the legislative agenda, reinforcing the military's grip on political power. Analysts say the result reflects not only the party's institutional backing but also the absence of meaningful competition, as many opposition groups were barred from participating or chose to boycott the election altogether.

The election was held against the backdrop of prolonged conflict across large parts of the country, where clashes between the military and various resistance groups have continued since the army seized power in a 2021 coup. Large swathes of Myanmar remain under martial law or emergency rule, with political gatherings heavily restricted and independent media operating under constant pressure.

Critics, including pro-democracy activists and international observers, have questioned the credibility of the electoral process, arguing that it lacked fundamental conditions for a free and fair vote. They point to the detention of opposition figures, the dissolution of rival parties, and tight controls on campaigning and voter outreach as factors that all but guaranteed a predetermined outcome.

The military authorities, however, have portrayed the election as a step toward restoring constitutional order and stability. State media hailed the USDP's victory as a mandate for governance, emphasizing voter turnout figures and framing the process as inclusive despite the ongoing unrest.

German commuter transport faces 'standstill'

FRANKFURT

Bus and commuter rail services across Germany are expected to grind to a near halt after the country's main public services trade union called for an almost nationwide strike, escalating a long-running dispute with municipal and state employers over pay and working conditions.

The union, Verdi, said on Friday that it had called on close to 100,000 employees to walk out, warning of severe disruption to public transport systems. It is safe to assume that public transport will come to a standstill in the affected transport systems, the union said in a statement, signalling widespread stoppages in buses, trams, underground services and suburban rail networks.

The industrial action is part of broader negotiations between public sector unions and employers representing Germany's municipalities and federal states. Verdi has argued that workers are facing rising workloads, staff shortages and eroding real wages due to persistent inflation, while employers have resisted union demands, citing tight budgets and fiscal pressures on local governments.

Commuters in major cities as well as smaller towns are expected to be hit, with transport authorities warning passengers to expect cancellations, delays and limited alternative services. Many local operators have advised travellers to work from home where possible or seek other means of transport during the strike period.

The dispute comes at a sensitive time for Europe's largest economy, which is grappling with slowing growth, high energy costs and ongoing pressures on public finances. Public sector wage negotiations have become increasingly contentious, as unions seek compensation for years of rising living costs while governments balance demands for fiscal discipline.

Previous rounds of talks have failed to produce a breakthrough, prompting Verdi to ramp up pressure through coordinated strikes. Union leaders argue that the scale of the walkout reflects deep frustration among transport workers, who they say have kept essential services running despite chronic understaffing and challenging working conditions.

Russia Claims Capture of Three Villages in Ukraine

MOSCOW

Russian troops have captured three additional villages in eastern and southeastern Ukraine, Russian state news agencies reported on Friday, citing the Defence Ministry. The claims, which could not be independently verified by Reuters, underscore the continued intensity of fighting along multiple front lines as the war grinds on with no immediate prospect of a ceasefire.

According to the ministry, Russian forces took control of the villages of Richne and Ternuvate in the Zaporizhzhia region, as well as Berestok in the Donetsk region. Both regions have been among the most fiercely contested areas since the start of the conflict, with shifting lines of control and frequent claims and counterclaims from both sides.

Zaporizhzhia, located in southeastern Ukraine, has strategic importance due to its location linking southern and eastern fronts, as well as its proximity to major transport routes. Donetsk, in the east, has long been a focal point of the war, with Moscow asserting claims over the broader region while Kyiv maintains that Russian advances there have come at significant cost.

Ukrainian authorities did not immediately comment on the reported captures, and independent confirmation from the battlefield remains difficult due to restricted access and the fog of war. Throughout the conflict, both Moscow and Kyiv have regularly reported gains that later proved exaggerated, reversed, or more limited than initially claimed.

The reported advances come amid sustained Russian pressure along several sections of the front, as Moscow seeks to build momentum through incremental territorial gains rather than sweeping offensives. Military analysts say such village-by-village advances, if confirmed, may be aimed at stretching Ukrainian defences and improving tactical positions ahead of future operations.

For Ukraine, the situation highlights the ongoing challenge of defending a long front line while relying heavily on Western military support. Kyiv has repeatedly called for additional weapons and ammunition to blunt Russian attacks and stabilize defensive lines.

SUDOKU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

	8	3	9		5		7	
2		5		8		3		1
	9			1			5	
	1	7		4		2		9
8			6		2		4	
6				3		5		7
	2		3		4		1	
9		4		5		7		8
5			8		7		2	

9	4	2	5	1	6	7	8	3
3	6	1	8	7	9	5	4	2
5	7	8	3	4	2	6	9	1
7	1	9	4	3	8	2	6	5
6	8	3	9	2	5	1	7	4
2	5	4	7	6	1	9	3	8
1	9	7	2	8	4	3	5	6
8	2	5	6	9	3	4	1	7
4	3	6	1	5	7	8	2	9

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

NUCLEAR TREATY EXPIRY

U.S. and Russia Risk Unchecked Nuclear Arms Race as New START Treaty

CALIFORNIA

The United States and Russia are on the brink of an unrestrained nuclear arms race for the first time since the Cold War, unless an eleventh-hour agreement is reached before the expiration of their last remaining arms control pact. The New START treaty, which limits the number of deployed strategic nuclear warheads and delivery systems, is set to lapse on February 5, leaving the world's two largest nuclear powers without any formal constraints on their long-range arsenals.

If the treaty expires, it would mark the first time in more than five decades that Washington and Moscow

operate without mutually agreed limits on their strategic nuclear forces. The current framework traces its roots to landmark agreements signed in 1972, when U.S. President Richard Nixon and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev concluded historic arms control deals during the first-ever visit by a U.S. president to Moscow. Those accords laid the foundation for decades of nuclear restraint and verification.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has proposed extending existing limits on missiles and nuclear warheads for one additional year. The move, according to Moscow, would provide breathing room for negotiations on a successor agreement that reflects current geopolitical realities. However, U.S. President Donald Trump has yet to formally respond to the proposal, fueling uncertainty as the deadline approaches.

Trump has signaled a willingness to let the treaty lapse, saying earlier this month that if it expires, it expires, while arguing that any future agreement should be broader and better. Some U.S. lawmakers support rejecting Putin's offer, contending that freeing Washington from treaty limits would allow it to expand its nuclear arsenal in response to the rapid buildup by a third power, China.

At the same time, Trump has said he wants to pursue denuclearisation talks involving both Russia and China, envisioning a more comprehensive global framework. Beijing, however, has dismissed such expectations as unrealistic, arguing that its nuclear forces remain far smaller than those of the United States and Russia, and that it should not be pressured into joining disarmament talks on unequal terms.

QUICK READ

India's engineering exports grow 3.88 pc in April-Dec 2025

New Delhi

India's engineering exports grew by 3.88 per cent to $90.73 billion during the April-December period in 2025, from $87.34 billion of the previous year, a report said on Friday. India's engineering exports to the United States grew 1 per cent year-on-year to $1.66 billion in December 2025, despite punitive tariffs imposed by the US administration, the report from Engineering Export Promotion Council of India (EEPC India) said. India's overall engineering goods exports worldwide grew 1.28 per cent YoY during the month to $10.98 billion up from $10.84 billion in previous year.

Ambuja Cements clocks 258 pc net profit jump in Q3

Ahmedabad

Adani Group's Ambuja Cements on Friday posted strong results for the October-December quarter (Q3 FY26), with net profit surging 258 per cent year-on-year at Rs 3,781 crore with highest-ever quarterly volume at 18.9 million tonnes, up 17 per cent (on-year). While revenue was up 20 per cent, EBITDA rose 53 per cent at Rs 1,353 crore in the quarter. With net worth at Rs 69,854 crore (up by Rs 361 crore), the cement major remains debt free and continues to maintain highest rating Crisil and CARE- AAA (stable)/A1+, with healthy cash flows to sustain the capex programme.

China-based manga piracy website forced to shut down

New Delhi

A China-based manga piracy website has been forced to shut down after a criminal complaint was filed with Chinese authorities, multiple reports said. Japan's anti-piracy coalition, Content Overseas Distribution Association (CODA), worked with cyber security experts to identify the operator of Bato.To. It is believed to be one of the world's biggest manga piracy sites and the illegally uploaded content included Japanese manga, reports www3.nhk.or.jp. CODA says the site had 60 domains and was accessed up to 350 million times a month.

PM Modi Hails Historic India–EU Free Trade Agreement

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the landmark India–EU free trade agreement aligns fully with India's developed nation vision.

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday underscored the significance of the historic India–European Union free trade agreement (FTA), describing it as fully aligned with the vision of transforming India into a developed country. The agreement, he said, reflects India's growing economic stature and its ability to shape major global partnerships in a rapidly changing world.

The Prime Minister was referring to an article authored by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, in which the minister described the pact as a transformative agreement that expands markets, creates jobs and safeguards India's core interests. Goyal wrote that the India–EU FTA marks a historic milestone in Prime Minister Modi's economic diplomacy and represents one of the most ambitious trade initiatives undertaken by India.

According to the article, the agreement will generate millions of jobs and open vast opportunities for India's youth and farmers, while creating wealth for nearly two billion people in India and the European Union together. The two partners account for about a quarter of the global economy, making the pact one of the biggest trade agreements ever signed between major economic blocs.

The FTA between the world's second- and fourth-largest economies goes far beyond tariff reductions. It represents a comprehensive strategic partnership that promotes cooperation in critical and future-oriented sectors such as artificial intelligence, defence manufacturing and semiconductors. Goyal noted that the agreement is designed to benefit every region and citizen of India by strengthening industrial growth, innovation and global integration.

A key feature of the deal is its emphasis on rules-based trade and policy stability, which is expected to make India even more attractive to both domestic and foreign investors. This, in turn, is likely to create fresh opportunities for small businesses, startups and workers across multiple sectors, reinforcing India's position as a reliable investment destination.

India's hotel sector is set for robust growth as strong demand lifts room rates, occupancy and profitability.

India's Hotel Industry in Sweet Spot, Poised for Strong Earnings Growth

MUMBAI

India's hotel industry is currently in a sweet spot and is expected to deliver strong earnings growth of around 16 to 21 per cent over the next three years, driven by rising room rates, improving occupancy and a favourable demand–supply balance, according to a report released on Friday by HSBC Global Investment Research.

The report projects that industry-wide EBITDA will grow at a robust compound annual growth rate of 16 to 21 per cent during FY25–FY28. This expansion will be supported by steady average room rate (ARR) growth of 5 to 7 per cent annually, along with improving occupancy levels across key urban centres and leisure destinations.

HSBC noted that several structural factors are reinforcing the growth outlook. These include the addition of high-margin managed room inventory, better operating leverage, and a strong contribution from ancillary revenue streams such as meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE). Events like corporate conferences and weddings account for an estimated 30 to 45 per cent of total sector revenue, providing hotels with diversified and relatively high-margin income.

Profitability is also expected to improve further. EBITDA margins for hotel companies covered by the research firm are likely to expand by an average of about 140 basis points over the next three years. According to the report, margin growth will be supported by improved traffic mix, operational efficiencies and a continued shift towards managed room inventory, which typically delivers higher margins compared to owned assets.

The industry is in a sweet spot. Demand is strong, broad-based, and sustainable, while capacity is struggling to keep up, the report said. It added that room rates have been rising consistently for the past four years and occupancy levels are currently at all-time highs, reflecting the strength of both domestic and international travel demand.

Despite the strong fundamentals, valuations across the sector remain undemanding, the report observed. Balance sheets are healthy, margins are expanding, foreign tourist arrivals are improving, and domestic travel demand is stronger than ever, creating a favourable backdrop for sustained growth.

Kuwait-Delhi IndiGo flight makes emergency landing

AHMEDABAD

An IndiGo Airlines flight from Kuwait to Delhi made an emergency landing in Ahmedabad on Friday after a bomb threat, triggering heightened security measures at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, officials said. The aircraft, carrying 186 people, including 180 passengers, was in the air when a handwritten threat was discovered on a tissue paper.

The note referred to a hijacking and a bomb, prompting immediate action by the flight crew.

Following standard aviation safety protocol, the pilot alerted Air Traffic Control and decided to divert the aircraft to the nearest suitable airport, Ahmedabad.

The flight landed safely at the Ahmedabad airport, where security agencies were placed on alert ahead of its arrival.

All passengers were evacuated from the aircraft in a controlled manner and moved to a secure area of the airport. There were no reports of injuries or medical emergencies during the process.

Airport Police Station Inspector N. D. Nakum said security agencies responded swiftly after the threat was reported. After the threat was received, all security agencies concerned were alerted. The Bomb Disposal Squad carried out a thorough check of the aircraft. No suspicious or objectionable item has been found so far. The checking process of the aircraft has been completed, and further investigation is continuing as per protocol, he said.

The Bomb Disposal Squad, CISF teams, dog squads and airport security teams conducted a detailed anti-sabotage check of the aircraft.

In addition to the plane, all passenger baggage was screened, and passengers were subjected to individual security checks in accordance with standard operating procedures.

A strong police presence was maintained across the airport during the operation. Airport sources said flight operations continued with minor, temporary adjustments while security checks were underway.

There was no immediate confirmation on when the diverted aircraft would resume its onward journey to Delhi.

Authorities are examining the origin and nature of the handwritten threat note and are working to establish how it was placed inside the aircraft. Officials said appropriate action would be taken based on the findings of the investigation.

The incident comes amid a series of recent bomb threats reported in Ahmedabad. Over the past few days, the city's airport, courts and several schools have received threat messages, all of which were later found to be non-specific or hoaxes after extensive checks.

INDIA ENERGY STABILITY

India Shielded Consumers From Global Energy Volatility

NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday said India has successfully protected its citizens from volatility in global energy markets, ensuring that international turmoil has not been passed on to consumers. Addressing concerns over the impact of global price shocks, the minister said India's energy strategy has combined preparedness, timely intervention and long-term planning.

According to an official statement, Puri was speaking at the closing ceremony of India Energy Week 2026 held in Goa. He said India has demonstrated strong resilience in navigating sustained geopolitical volatility and will continue to occupy centre stage in international energy discourse. Despite repeated global disruptions, India today enjoys among the lowest energy prices in the world, he noted.

The minister highlighted the role played by oil marketing companies in maintaining uninterrupted supply during periods of crisis. He said timely and calibrated interventions ensured that fuel prices, including liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), remained affordable for households. Global turmoil has never been passed on to the consumer, Puri said, underlining the government's focus on shielding citizens from external shocks.

Puri also outlined the government's push towards cleaner and alternative fuels, including compressed biogas (CBG), green hydrogen and indigenous clean-energy technologies, while continuing investments in conventional fuels. He emphasised that traditional energy sources would remain essential for India's growth, but the transition to greener fuels is steadily gaining momentum.

Traditional energy will remain essential, but the strides we are making — from ethanol blending to CBG, hydrogen and biofuels — give us confidence that greener fuels will play an expanding role, the minister said. He added that India's diversified approach ensures both energy security and sustainability.

Speaking at the event, Neeraj Mittal, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, said India's projected economic growth of over 7 per cent will drive a sharp rise in energy demand in the coming years. He said the government's strategy rests on two key pillars: strengthening domestic exploration and production, and positioning India as a reliable supplier of refined petroleum products to global markets. Mittal outlined ambitious plans to accelerate upstream activity through increased drilling and exploration, aimed at enhancing self-reliance and reducing import dependence.

Fertiliser Movement on Indian Railways Hits Record High in FY 2025–26

MUMBAI

Fertiliser movement on Indian Railways hit a record in FY26, boosting availability for farmers nationwide during critical sowing.

Fertiliser movement from the Centre to states through Indian Railways reached an all-time high during the first nine months of the financial year 2025–26, reflecting strengthened logistics and coordinated planning to support agriculture across the country. According to an official statement released on Friday, total fertiliser supplies during April–December crossed 530.16 lakh metric tonnes, surpassing the 500 lakh metric tonne mark for the first time in this period.

The figures mark a significant improvement over previous years. Supplies were 12.2 per cent higher than the corresponding period of FY 2024–25 and 8.5 per cent above the earlier record achieved in FY 2023–24. Officials said the surge demonstrates the Centre's focus on ensuring uninterrupted availability of key agricultural inputs during crucial cultivation phases.

The statement noted that the government ensured sufficient availability of all major fertilisers across states. Urea supplies alone reached 350.45 lakh metric tonnes during the April–December period, comfortably exceeding the assessed requirement of 312.40 lakh metric tonnes. In the case of major phosphorous and potassium (P&K) fertilisers, including DAP, MOP and NPKS, total supplies stood at 287.69 lakh metric tonnes against a requirement of 252.81 lakh metric tonnes, consistently surpassing projected demand.

Officials attributed the strong performance to faster and smoother movement of fertiliser rakes, which enabled timely deliveries to states and helped farmers avoid shortages during critical stages of cultivation. The Department of Fertilisers worked closely with the Ministry of Railways to streamline operations and prioritise fertiliser transportation, the statement said. Railway data show a steady rise in average rake loading during the period. Loading increased to 72 rakes per day in July 2025, rose further to 78 rakes per day in August, and peaked at 80 rakes per day in September. Urea rake movement climbed to 10,841 rakes, registering an 8 per cent increase over the previous year, while P&K fertilisers recorded 8,806 rakes, reflecting a robust 18 per cent growth.

LG Electronics remains in red in Q4 on weak demand

SEOUL

LG Electronics said on Friday it remained in the red in the fourth quarter of 2025 from a year earlier, due mainly to weak market demand coupled with one-off costs caused by its restructuring programme. Its net loss came to 725.9 billion won (US$505.7 million) for the October-December period, compared with a loss of 713.7 billion won posted a year earlier, the company said in a regulatory filing. LG Electronics posted an operating loss of 109 billion won for the fourth quarter, marking a sharp turnaround from an operating profit of 135.4 billion won in the fourth quarter of 2024. Sales rose 4.8 percent on-year to 23.85 trillion won, reports Yonhap news agency.

The company attributed the weak performance to a delayed recovery in demand for TV products, along with increased marketing expenditures. In the second half, the company carried out a voluntary retirement program to improve the efficiency of its workforce structure, which led to expenditures worth hundreds of billions of won, the company said. For all of 2025, LG Electronics said its net profit came to 1.22 trillion won, more than doubling from the previous year.

The company posted 2.47 trillion won in operating profit for the year, down 27.5 percent from 3.41 trillion won in 2024. Annual sales rose 1.7 percent to 89.2 trillion won. LG Electronics said the annual sales marked a new record, led by the home appliance business despite unfavourable conditions, including tariff burdens. In detail, LG Electronics said its home appliance solution division posted an operating profit of 1.27 trillion won, as the company improved its production cost structure.

ALTUM CREDO HOME FINANCE PRIVATE LTD
Regd. Office: Floor No. 7, Kalpataru Infinia, Wakdewadi, Shivajinagar, Pune - 411005. Maharashtra (India)

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitization And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. The undersigned is the authorized officer of **Altum Credo Home Finance Pvt. Ltd. (ACHFL)**.Under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (The said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, the authorized officer has issued demand notices under 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the borrower(s) [The "said borrower(s)"], to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective demand notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the said borrower(s) to pay to **Altum Credo Home Finance Pvt. Ltd. (ACHFL)**, within sixty days from the publication of this notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said demand notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said borrower(s). As Security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to **Altum Credo Home Finance Pvt. Ltd. (ACHFL)** by the said borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) Loan Account Number
1. Kirana B J (Applicant), **2. Jayappa Battera** (Co-Applicant), **LAN: 1192020100162**
Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA Date
06.01.2026 / **Rs. 5,43,801/-** (Rupees Five Lakhs Forty Three Thousand Eight Hundred One Only) as on **05.01.2026 (NPA) on 06.01.2026**
Description Of Secured Assets (Immovable Property)
All that piece and parcel of Khatha No. 23, Measuring 30 X 40 Fts, i.e. 1200 sq Fts, situated at Kurubarahalli Village, Kondajji Gram Panchayath, Harihar Taluk, Davangere, **East:** Property of Nagaraja, **West:** Property of Ramappa, **North:** Road, **South:** Road
Name of the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) Loan Account Number
1. Madhunaik R. (Applicant), **2. Jyothi Bai S.** (Co-Applicant), **LAN: S119202000087**
Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA Date
06.01.2026 / **Rs. 4,00,871/-** (Rupees Four Lakhs Eight Hundred Seventy One Only) as on **05.01.2026 (NPA) on 06.01.2026**
Description Of Secured Assets (Immovable Property)
All that piece and parcel of Property no 536/76/A, E Swathu No 151200204300100191 measuring 6.4008 X 9.4488 Mts i.e 60.47 Sq Mtrs, Situated at Sri.Ramanagara Village, Sri.Ramanagara Gram panchayath, Davangere Taluk Davangere Dist. **East:** House of Renuka naik, **West:** Property of Pathi naika, **North:** Road, **South:** House of Rama naik.
Name of the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) Loan Account Number
1. Pavan H. (Applicant), **2. N Lakshmi Bai N** (Co-Applicant), **LAN: S119202000173**
Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA Date
06.01.2026 / **Rs. 10,71,743/-** (Rupees Ten Lakhs Seventy One Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Three Only) as on **05.01.2026 (NPA) on 06.01.2026**
Description Of Secured Assets (Immovable Property)
The property admeasuring an extent of 139.81 Sq.Mtrs., comprised in Property Number 23, bearing PID No. 151200601200600023, situated in Venkatesha Pura Village, Gurusiddapura Gram Panchayat, Jagalur Taluk, Davanagare District, within the Sub-Registration Office of Jagalur, **East:** House of Lakshmibai, **West:** House of Hanumanthnaik, **North:** Lane Road, **South:** Lane Road.

Sd/-
Place : Davangere, Karnataka
Date : 31.01.2026
Authorized Officer
Altum Credo Home Finance Pvt. Ltd. (ACHFL)

Rising Global Warming Affecting the Himalayas

The Himalayas, often called the Third Pole due to their vast ice reserves, stand as Earth's highest mountain range and home to the largest concentration of glaciers outside the polar regions. Stretching across 2,400 kilometers through five countries India, Nepal, Bhutan, China, and Pakistan these majestic peaks are experiencing unprecedented changes as global temperatures continue to rise. The accelerating impacts of climate change on this critical region carry profound implications not just for the mountain communities who call it home, but for the nearly two billion people downstream who depend on its waters for survival.

The Accelerating Crisis of Glacial Retreat

The most visible and alarming manifestation of global warming in the Himalayas is the rapid retreat of glaciers. Scientific studies have documented that Himalayan glaciers are melting at extraordinary rates, with some research indicating they are losing ice mass nearly twice as fast in recent years compared to the period before 2000. This acceleration represents a dramatic shift in the region's cryosphere, with glaciers that have existed for millennia now shrinking at rates that would have seemed impossible just decades ago.

The mechanics of this glacial retreat are complex but fundamentally driven by rising temperatures. As average temperatures in the Himalayan region increase—warming at rates significantly higher than the global average—the equilibrium line altitude, where glacier accumulation balances ablation, shifts upward. This means that more of each glacier's surface area experiences net melting rather than snow accumulation. The darker surfaces exposed as snow cover diminishes absorb more solar radiation, creating a feedback loop that further accelerates melting.

The consequences of this glacial loss extend far beyond the mountains themselves. Himalayan glaciers feed seven of Asia's great river systems, including the Ganges, Indus, Brahmaputra, Mekong, and Yangtze. These rivers sustain agriculture, provide drinking water, generate hydroelectric power, and support ecosystems across South and Southeast Asia. As glaciers shrink, the long-term water security of these river basins becomes increasingly precarious. While melting may temporarily increase river flows, the eventual depletion of these frozen reservoirs threatens to drastically reduce dry-season water availability, with catastrophic implications for food security and economic stability across the region.

The Growing Threat of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods

As glaciers retreat, they leave behind a dangerous legacy in the form of glacial lakes. These bodies of water, held back by unstable moraines composed of loose rock and debris, have been growing both in number and size throughout the Himalayan region. When the natural dams containing these lakes fail—triggered by events such as avalanches, earthquakes, or the simple pressure of accumulating water—they can release enormous volumes of water in catastrophic glacial lake outburst floods, known as GLOFs.

The threat posed by GLOFs has intensified dramatically as global warming accelerates glacial melting. Researchers have identified hundreds of potentially dangerous glacial lakes across the Himalayas, many of which are expanding rapidly. Communities located in valleys downstream from these lakes live under constant threat, knowing that a sudden breach could send walls of water, mud, and debris cascading down mountain slopes with virtually no warning.

Recent history has demonstrated the devastating potential of these floods. GLOFs have destroyed hydroelectric facilities worth hundreds of millions of dollars, wiped out entire villages, claimed numerous lives, and devastated agricultural lands that represent the sole livelihood for mountain communities. The 2021 Chamoli disaster in the Indian state of Uttarakhand, while not strictly a GLOF, illustrated the catastrophic potential of ice and rock avalanches in a warming Himalayan environment, killing over 200 people and destroying critical infrastructure.

The challenge of managing GLOF risk is compounded by the remote and difficult terrain where these lakes are located, making both monitoring and mitigation efforts extremely challenging and expensive. While some countries have implemented early warning systems and drainage projects for the most dangerous lakes, the sheer number of potential threats far exceeds current capacity to address them all.

Ecosystem Transformation and Biodiversity Loss

The Himalayas harbor some of the world's most unique and diverse ecosystems, hosting species found nowhere else on Earth. From the snow leopard prowling high-altitude peaks to the red panda inhabiting temperate forests, from rare medicinal plants to ancient rhododendron groves, the region's biodiversity is extraordinary. Global warming, however, is fundamentally restructuring these ecosystems at a pace that may exceed many species' ability to adapt.

As temperatures rise, vegetation zones are shifting upward in elevation. Alpine species adapted to cold conditions find their habitats shrinking, literally being pushed off the mountaintops with nowhere left to go. Treelines are advancing to higher elevations, transforming landscapes and displacing alpine meadow ecosystems. These changes cascade through food webs, affecting everything from pollinators to predators.

Many Himalayan species face an uncertain future as their habitat fragments and shrinks. The snow leopard, already endangered, may lose much of its range as prey species shift and snow cover diminishes. High-altitude medicinal plants, many used in traditional medicine systems for centuries, are becoming increasingly scarce. Some endemic species, with nowhere else to exist, face the very real possibility of extinction.

The loss of biodiversity extends beyond its intrinsic value to affect human communities that depend on ecosystem services. Forests that prevent erosion and landslides are stressed by changing conditions. Alpine meadows that provide grazing for livestock are transforming.

Disruption of Monsoon Patterns and Precipitation

Global warming's impact on the Himalayas extends beyond ice and glaciers to fundamentally alter precipitation patterns and monsoon dynamics. The Himalayas play a crucial role in regulating South Asian monsoon systems, acting as a massive barrier that influences atmospheric circulation and rainfall distribution. As climate change progresses, these patterns are becoming increasingly erratic and unpredictable.

Scientists have observed shifts in monsoon timing, with delays in onset and changes in the duration and intensity of rainfall. Some regions are experiencing more extreme precipitation events—intense downpours concentrated in shorter periods—while overall seasonal rainfall totals may decrease. This shift from steady, prolonged rains to intense bursts creates a double jeopardy: increased flooding and landslide risk during extreme events, followed by drought conditions during extended dry spells.

These changing precipitation patterns have severe implications for agriculture in both the mountains and the plains below. Farmers who have relied for generations on predictable seasonal patterns find themselves unable to plan planting and harvesting schedules. Crop failures are becoming more common, threatening food security and livelihoods. The unpredictability of water availability also affects hydroelectric power generation, which many Himalayan nations depend upon for their energy needs.

Furthermore, warmer temperatures are causing more precipitation to fall as rain rather than snow at higher elevations. This shift reduces the snowpack that traditionally acts as natural storage, releasing water gradually through the spring and summer months. With less snow storage, rivers experience higher flows during winter but lower flows during the critical agricultural season when water demand peaks.

IMPACTS ON MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

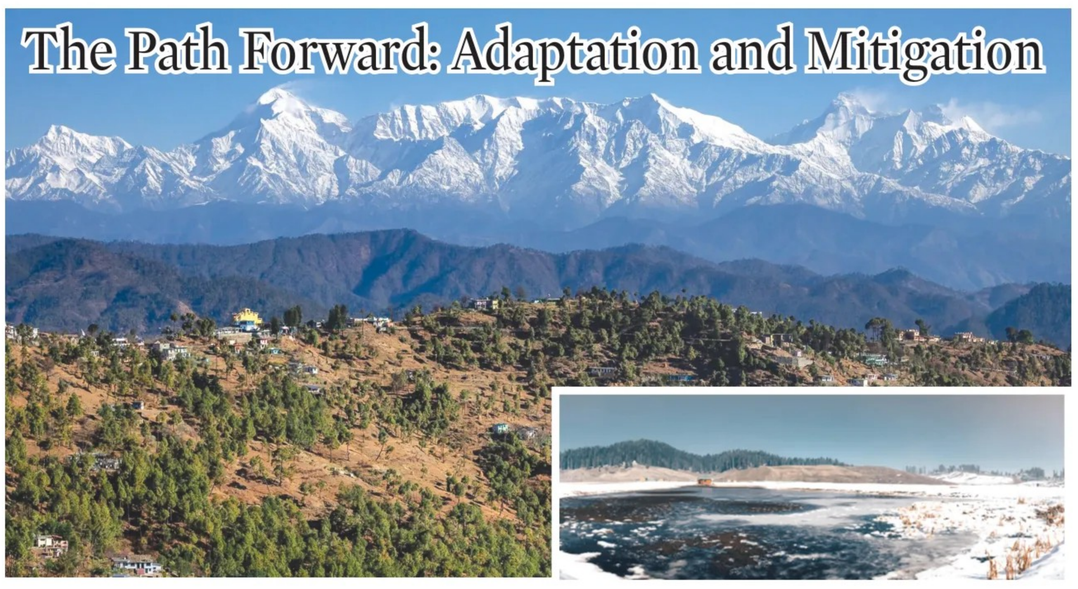
The people of the Himalayas, many of whom have maintained traditional ways of life for centuries, find themselves on the frontlines of climate change. These communities, who have contributed minimally to global greenhouse gas emissions, bear a disproportionate burden of climate impacts. Their intimate knowledge of mountain environments, passed down through generations, is increasingly mismatched with rapidly changing conditions.

Traditional agricultural practices are failing as familiar weather patterns disappear. Livestock herders find traditional grazing grounds altered or inaccessible. Water sources that villages have depended upon for generations are drying up or becoming unreliable. Infrastructure—roads, bridges, homes—built to withstand historical climate conditions proves inadequate against new extremes of flooding, landslides, and storms.

The economic impacts extend to tourism, a vital income source for many mountain communities. While some areas may see temporary increases in accessibility as snow and ice retreat, the long-term viability of mountain tourism depends on the very glaciers and snowscapes that are disappearing. Ski resorts, trekking routes, and pilgrimage sites all face uncertain futures.

Beyond material impacts, climate change threatens the rich cultural heritage of Himalayan communities. Sacred sites, many located on glaciers or near ice formations, are disappearing. Traditional ceremonies and practices tied to seasonal cycles lose meaning as those cycles become unpredictable. Indigenous knowledge systems, while valuable, may prove insufficient to cope with changes occurring at unprecedented speed and scale.

The Path Forward: Adaptation and Mitigation



Addressing the climate crisis in the Himalayas requires action on multiple fronts. Global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions remain paramount—without significant cuts to global emissions, the Himalayan region faces truly catastrophic changes. The Paris Agreement's goals of limiting global warming must be met and exceeded to give these mountains a fighting chance. Simultaneously, adaptation measures are essential to help communities cope with changes already underway and those that are now inevitable. This includes improved early warning systems for glacial floods and other hazards, climate-resilient infrastructure, sustainable water management strategies, and support for livelihood diversification in mountain communities. Scientific monitoring must be enhanced to better understand and predict changes, while indigenous knowledge should be integrated into adaptation planning.

Regional cooperation is crucial, as the Himalayas span multiple nations and climate impacts recognize no borders. Shared river basins require coordinated management, and transboundary collaboration on research, monitoring, and disaster preparedness can save lives and resources. International support, both financial and technical, is needed to help Himalayan countries build resilience against climate impacts they did little to cause.

The crisis facing the Himalayas is a stark reminder that climate change is not a distant threat but a present reality reshaping our world's most iconic landscapes.

Forest, Celtic Reach Europa League Play-Offs as Villa Stage Spirited Fightback

LONDON

Nottingham Forest and Celtic secured places in the Europa League play-off round, while Aston Villa completed a dramatic comeback to finish second in the league phase and book direct passage to the last 16. Forest kept their slim top-eight hopes alive with a dominant 4-0 win over Ferencvaros, but other results went against them, leaving Sean Dyche's side 13th overall. Igor Jesus struck twice after Ferencvaros defender Bence Otvos netted an own goal, and James McAtee sealed the result with a late penalty. Despite missing automatic qualification, Forest will now face either Fenerbahce or Panathinaikos over two legs next month.

Dyche praised his players' response after last week's defeat in Braga, saying the victory reflected their resilience amid a demanding schedule. Twice European champions, Forest will discover their exact play-off opponents on Friday.

Celtic also advanced after an entertaining 4-2 home win over Utrecht. The Scottish champions raced into a commanding early lead with three goals inside 19 minutes, courtesy of Benjamin Nygren, an own goal from Nick Viergever, and a penalty converted by Arne Engels. Utrecht mounted a brief comeback, but Auston Trusty's header ensured Celtic's progress. They will meet either Stuttgart or Ferencvaros in the play-offs.

Aston Villa, meanwhile, showed their character despite already being assured of a last-16 spot. Unai Emery's side recovered from 2-0 down to defeat Red Bull Salzburg 3-2 at Villa Park. Goals from Morgan Rogers and Tyrone Mings levelled the contest before 19-year-old Jamaldeen Jimoh-Aloba marked his European debut with a decisive winner.

Villa's reward is a break before the knockout stage, where potential opponents include Lille, PAOK, Red Star Belgrade or Celta Vigo. Emery's record — a competition-best four Europa League titles — has boosted belief within the squad.

"He knows how to get through this competition," said Rogers. "Having him guiding us is massive."

Elsewhere, Lyon topped the table, while Rangers endured a disappointing end to their campaign with defeat at Porto.

Senegal Coach Pape Thiaw Banned, Fined After AFCON Final Chaos

CAF hands heavy sanctions following chaotic scenes during Senegal's dramatic AFCON final victory

RABAT

Senegal coach Pape Thiaw has been handed a five-match ban and fined $100,000 by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) following chaotic scenes during the Africa Cup of Nations final against Morocco earlier this month.

In a statement released, CAF said Thiaw was found guilty of "unsporting conduct" and "bringing the game into disrepute" during the final in Rabat on January 18, which Senegal eventually won 1-0 after extra time. Television footage showed Thiaw gesturing towards his players when Morocco were awarded a penalty deep into stoppage time, a move widely interpreted as instructing his team to walk off the pitch.

The incident triggered disorder, with most Senegal players briefly leaving the field before star forward Sadio Mane convinced them to return. The long delay ended with Morocco's Brahim Diaz missing the penalty, which was saved by goalkeeper Edouard Mendy. Senegal later sealed their second AFCON title through Pape Gueye's extra-time goal. CAF also imposed sanctions on players from both sides. Senegal's Iliman Ndiaye and Ismaila Sarr received two-match bans each for unsporting behaviour towards the referee. Moroccan forward Ismael Saibari was suspended for three matches and fined $100,000, while captain Achraf Hakimi was banned for two games. The Senegal Football Federation (FSF) was fined a total of $615,000 for multiple offences, including the conduct of players, officials and supporters. Morocco's football federation was fined $315,000 for issues ranging from improper conduct around the VAR area to supporters using lasers to distract Senegal players.

Tyson Fury Confirms Comeback Fight against Arslanbek Makhmudov in April

MANCHESTER

Former world heavyweight champion Tyson Fury will return to the ring on April 11 in his home country, facing Russia's Arslanbek Makhmudov in his first fight since retiring last year. The venue for the bout is yet to be confirmed.

Fury, 37, announced his retirement early in 2025 but had hinted at a possible comeback. He officially confirmed earlier this month that he would come out of retirement after losing to Oleksandr Usyk in December 2024. "Excited to be back. Heart's always been and always will be in boxing. Someone go tell the king that the ace is back," Fury said, expressing his eagerness to resume his career.

Makhmudov, a Russia-born heavyweight based in Canada, has been steadily rising through the ranks. In his most recent fight, he dominated Britain's Dave Allen, showcasing his power and skill. "I am thrilled about the opportunity," Makhmudov said. "I'm coming to deliver a war. Tyson Fury has been a big champion. I will be more ready than ever to leave with a massive W."

SOUTH ZONE INTER-UNIVERSITY CRICKET TOURNAMENT: DAY FOUR THRILLS IN MYSURU

MYSURU

The South Zone Inter-University Cricket Tournament continued on Day Four at the JSS Science and Technology University campus, Mysuru, with high-octane contests and standout individual performances across multiple grounds. Teams battled fiercely to gain early momentum in the league stage, delivering both dominating and closely fought encounters.

At Ground 1, Kalasalingam Academy defeated JSS Science and Technology University by 15 runs. Bheeram Pavan Kalyan Reddy starred with 59 off 33 balls, supported by Gowtham Krishna's quick 41. Jugal Kishore claimed 4 wickets for JSSSTU.

University of Mysore overpowered UVCE Bangalore by 108 runs on Ground 2. Likith S. Gowda's 67 guided Mysore to 169/5, before the bowlers bundled out UVCE for 61, earning him Player of the Match. Karnataka University, Dharwad, secured a five-wicket win over SR University, Warangal, on Ground 3, chasing 123 with Vinayak Pande claiming 3 wickets and scoring a crucial 15*.

Ground 5 witnessed Satyabhama University demolishing Dayanand Sagar University by 91 runs. Mayank (77), Sanjai (55), and Lalit (36) powered the innings, while Naman's 5-wicket haul earned Player of the Match.

CMR University, Bangalore, thrashed ANU Guntur by 77 runs on Ground 6, with Prithvi scoring 61 and taking Player of the Match honours.

On Ground 9, MGR University dominated Cochin University by 77 runs, with captain Vanjaneethan hitting 51 and E. Tamizharasan picking 3 wickets.

Madurai Kamaraj University edged past Adithya University thanks to Sunder Muni's unbeaten 55 and Jeya Surya's key bowling on Ground 10.

Finally, Malla Reddy University chased down 133 against the University of Agriculture and Science in 14.3 overs on Ground 11, led by Ram Routhwik Reddy's match-winning performance. With intense competition across all venues, the tournament continues to showcase emerging cricketing talent from the South Zone universities, setting the stage for thrilling encounters in the remaining days.

Fulton Considered Resigning Over Manpreet Snub: Report

NEW DELHI

India chief hockey coach Craig Fulton was so opposed to the omission of veteran midfielder Manpreet Singh from the national core probables that he even threatened to resign before being persuaded to continue by Hockey India (HI), a well-placed source told on Friday.

Manpreet, a two-time Olympic bronze medallist, was dropped from the 33-member core probables named for the February 1–7 national camp in Rourkela on disciplinary grounds, marking the first such omission of his 15-year international career. The decision followed allegations that the 33-year-old had abused a recreational drug during India's tour of South Africa in December last year.

According to the source, Fulton viewed the move as "external interference" and was visibly disturbed during the meeting in which HI president Dilip Tirkey, secretary general Bhola Nath Singh and chief selector RP Singh jointly conveyed that Manpreet should be left out. Fulton argued strongly that Manpreet's experience and leadership were crucial, particularly his role as a mentor to younger players.

"Fulton relied on Manpreet's fitness and form. He is among the top four fittest players in the core group," the source said, adding that several players were unhappy with the way the situation was handled.

A day after the Chennai leg of the recently concluded Hockey India League, a furious Fulton even offered to step down. However, after sustained persuasion by Tirkey, he agreed to stay on and go along with the official explanation that Manpreet was being "rested".

Fulton's 'Defend to Win' philosophy places heavy emphasis on structure and experience, and he is keen on retaining Manpreet at least until this year's Asian Games and the World Cup, scheduled for August and September respectively. He believes Manpreet's calm under pressure will be invaluable at major tournaments.

HI, meanwhile, has maintained its stance. "Manpreet sought rest and conveyed it to HI," Bhola Nath Singh said.

All Eyes on Villoo C. Poonawalla Indian Derby Weekend

₹6 CROREE STAKES HIGHLIGHT INDIAN DERBY WEEKEND

Stakes worth over ₹6 crore headline the Villoo C. Poonawalla Indian Derby weekend at RWITC, Mumbai. The marquee Derby on February 1 offers a ₹4 crore purse. Eleven top-class runners, including Fynbos and Baychimo, will vie for glory across a two-day racing carnival.

MUMBAI

The Villoo C. Poonawalla Indian Derby weekend promises a glittering showcase of Indian horse racing, with the Royal Western India Turf Club (RWITC) hosting a two-day carnival capped by the marquee race on February 1 at 5:45 p.m. The carnival features seven races on Saturday (Jan. 31) and nine on Sunday (Feb. 1), with the final two races running under floodlights.

Stakes exceed ₹6 crore for the weekend, highlighted by a Derby purse of ₹4 crore, with the winner pocketing ₹2.4 crore. Punters have added incentive as ₹50 lakh will be added to Sunday's second combined jackpot pool, expected to exceed ₹1 crore.

Among the 11 runners vying for Derby glory, trainer Pesi Shroff's filly Fynbos stands out. The winner of the Bangalore Summer Derby and the Indian Oaks, Fynbos has impressed in morning trials and will be partnered by British jockey Tom Marquand.

Trainer Adhirajsingh Jodha will have double representation with Baychimo, winner of the Indian 2000 Guineas and the Ruia Cup, now to be ridden by Suraj Narredu after retained jockey Sandesh's suspension. His stablemate Sovereign King, narrowly beaten by Baychimo in the Guineas, has shown promise in workouts and could challenge over the stamina-testing 2,400m trip.

Veteran trainer M.K. Jadhav's Kavya, victor over Fynbos in the Indian 1000 Guineas, returns after a seven-week break, retaining her fitness and guided by jockey David Allan. Another Shroff trainee, Zacharias, Pune Derby winner and runner-up to Baychimo in the Ruia Cup, has blazed through morning trials and could play a decisive role.

Meanwhile, the long-standing Breeders' Produce Stakes will run as the Rattonsey Multi-Million (1,400m) for juveniles, maintaining its traditional Derby-day appeal. With top-class runners, jockeys, and a massive prize pool, the Indian Derby weekend promises high drama and thrilling finishes.

Gukesh Faces Aravindh as Tata Steel Masters Nears Crucial Finish

WIJK AAN ZEE (NETHERLANDS)

Reigning world champion D Gukesh will lock horns with compatriot Aravindh Chithambaram in the 11th round of the Tata Steel Masters as the prestigious tournament heads into its decisive phase. Fresh from a confidence-boosting win over Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus of Turkey, Gukesh begins the final stretch of the first super tournament of the year with renewed momentum. With only three rounds remaining, the race for the top spots is heating up, even as Uzbekistan's Nodirbek Abdusattorov continues to lead the standings with 6.5 points.

Abdusattorov is closely followed by Javokhir Sindarov, Germany's Matthias Bluebaum and home favourite Jorden van Foreest, all on six points. Hans Moke Niemann of the United States and Erdogmus share fifth place on 5.5 points, while Gukesh is part of a three-way tie on five points alongside Vincent Keymer of Germany and Vladimir Fedoseev of Slovenia.

Tata Steel Masters intensifies as Gukesh eyes late surge amid battles in Wijk aan Zee

After encountering early setbacks, the youngest-ever world champion appears to have found his rhythm at the right time. Beyond the Aravindh encounter, Gukesh faces a stiff challenge against Niemann in the penultimate round before taking on Keymer in the final round — a sequence that could yet propel him into podium contention.

R Praggnanandhaa, the only Indian to qualify for the Candidates Tournament later this year, has struggled to recover fully from a disastrous start that saw him lose his first two games. Currently on 4.5 points, Praggnanandhaa still has an outside chance of a strong finish but needs a flawless run, beginning with his round-11 clash against Keymer.

Arjun Erigaisi and Aravindh Chithambaram, meanwhile, have endured difficult campaigns. Erigaisi showed early promise before fading, while Aravindh's lone victory came only in the previous round from a seemingly lost position. As the Tata Steel Masters approaches its business end, every result now carries significant weight, especially for contenders like Gukesh seeking a late surge in a tightly contested field.

De Kock's 100th T20
Ton Powers SA to Series Win

Quinton de Kock marks milestone with stunning hundred, sealing dominant series victory

CENTURION

Quinton de Kock celebrated his landmark 100th Twenty20 International in memorable fashion, smashing a breathtaking century to lead South Africa to a seven-wicket win over the West Indies and clinch the series 2-0.

Chasing a daunting 222, South Africa showed no nerves as de Kock produced a career-best 115 off just 49 balls, turning a stiff target into a one-sided contest. The left-hander, using a borrowed bat from Dewald Brevis, struck the ball with supreme confidence, peppering the stands with 10 sixes and six boundaries in a knock that thrilled the Centurion crowd.

De Kock found strong support from fellow left-hander Ryan Rickelton, who played a brilliant supporting role before finishing the chase with a career-best 77 not out off 36 deliveries. The duo added 162 runs in just 11.5 overs, scoring at a blistering rate of nearly 12 runs per over to leave the West Indies attack helpless.

South Africa captain Aiden Markram praised the pair, calling de Kock's innings "special to watch" while noting Rickelton's consistency in closing out games. The Proteas cruised to 225-3 with 15 balls to spare, underlining their dominance. Earlier, the West Indies had posted an imposing 221-4, built around fluent knocks from Shimron Hetmyer, who scored 75, and Sherfane Rutherford, who remained unbeaten on 57. Keshav Maharaj was the standout South African bowler with figures of 2-22, a spell Markram later said prevented the chase from becoming even steeper.

The victory ended South Africa's run of five consecutive bilateral T20 series defeats and handed coach Shukri Conrad his first series win in the format. With one match remaining before both sides head into the T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka, South Africa will take confidence from a performance powered by one of their modern greats.

Last Chance for India to Experiment before Big T20 World Cup Test

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A little after the final wicket fell in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday, India's 50-run defeat to New Zealand sparked debate over team balance, particularly the decision to go in with one batter short. On the surface, the margin of loss appeared alarming. In context, however, it was a calculated risk — and one the team management is willing to live with.

Having already sealed the five-match series, India treated the game as a testing ground rather than a must-win contest. The idea was simple: experiment under pressure, stretch combinations and understand how the side reacts in unfamiliar scenarios before the looming T20 World Cup. Playing five bowlers at the cost of batting depth was one such deliberate challenge.

Captain Suryakumar Yadav confirmed as much, saying the team wanted to see how they would cope chasing big totals after early setbacks. While the plan didn't quite come off, there were positives. Shivam Dube continued his impressive run with a blistering half-century, while Rinku Singh showed composure in the middle. However,

With series sealed, India use final T20I to fine-tune World Cup plans.

early dismissals for Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson and Yadav, followed by Hardik Pandya's struggle against spin, exposed areas that still need tightening.

Coach Gautam Gambhir and the captain are unlikely to panic, but concerns remain. Samson's inability to convert starts is one, especially ahead of the fifth T20I in his home state. Axar Patel's role is another. Despite being vice-captain, Axar has featured only once in the series, with the middle order already crowded by left-handers like Dube and Rinku. On the brighter side, India have largely achieved what they set out to do. Every member of the T20 World Cup squad has got game time, offering clarity and confidence. Ishan Kishan looks ready, Dube has delivered consistently, Yadav has rediscovered form, and the bowling core of Jasprit Bumrah, Varun Chakravarthy and Hardik Pandya has underlined its value. Kuldeep Yadav's deployment alongside Varun remains a tactical puzzle, but one worth solving.

With injuries to Tilak Varma and Washington Sundar still being monitored, Saturday's final T20I represents India's last opportunity to tweak combinations before shifting focus to Mumbai and the World Cup warm-up. Most boxes are ticked — one final experiment remains.

Bayramov Fires Delhi Dangal into PWL Semifinals

NOIDA

Delhi Dangal Warriors clinched a thrilling semifinal berth in the Pro Wrestling League (PWL) 2026 with a dramatic 5-4 victory over Punjab Royals in the final league match at the Noida Indoor Stadium.

Needing an outright win to avoid reliance on technical calculations, Delhi rose to the occasion in a contest that went down to the wire. The defining moment came in the eighth bout of the evening when Player of the Match Turan Bayramov produced a clutch performance to defeat U23 Asian champion Chandermohan in

the 74kg men's category. Bayramov's emphatic 18-8 win levelled the tie at 4-4 and effectively sealed Delhi's place in the last four.

Punjab, who had already secured a semifinal spot, started strongly. In the 76kg women's contest, Priya Malik edged past Anastasiya Alpyeeva 2-0 in a tight tactical battle. Delhi struck back immediately through Vafaeipour Hadi Bakhtiar, who dominated Sandeep Maan 20-7 in the 86kg men's bout to restore parity.

Delhi then surged ahead as captain Sujeet Kalkal delivered a composed 10-1 win over Anuj Kumar in the 65kg category, followed by Shubham Kaushik's clinical 9-0 shutout against Chirag Chhikara, taking Delhi to a 3-1 lead. Punjab responded through Rajnita Jangra, who controlled Karla Godinez Gonzalez 5-1 in the 57kg women's bout. The momentum swung again in the 62kg women's contest, where Fighter of the Match Ana Godinez produced a high-quality 11-7 win over Anjli, levelling the tie at 3-3.

ICC T20 World Cup 2026: Australia's SWOT as Marsh's Men Chase Redemption

MELBOURNE

Australia head into the ICC T20 World Cup 2026 with a point to prove after a forgettable 2024 campaign that ended abruptly with a shock loss to Afghanistan and an early exit before the semifinals. Under Mitchell Marsh, the former champions are determined to restore their reputation on the biggest stage.

STRENGTHS:
Australia's biggest asset is its explosive batting depth. The top and middle order boasts proven match-winners in Travis Head, Cameron Green, Marcus Stoinis, Glenn Maxwell and Tim David, giving the side the ability to dominate attacks across phases. Marsh himself has an impressive captaincy record, winning over 80 per cent of his matches, and brings calm leadership. The bowling unit remains formidable, with Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood providing experience and control, while Adam Zampa continues to be a reliable wicket-taker in the middle overs.

WEAKNESSES:
Australia's long-standing vulnerability against quality spin could resurface in Sri Lanka, where Colombo and Kandy traditionally assist slow bowlers. The batting line-up is packed with aggressors, but lacks a clearly defined anchor, which could hurt them in pressure chases. Fitness is another concern, with Cummins and Hazlewood returning after extended injury layoffs.

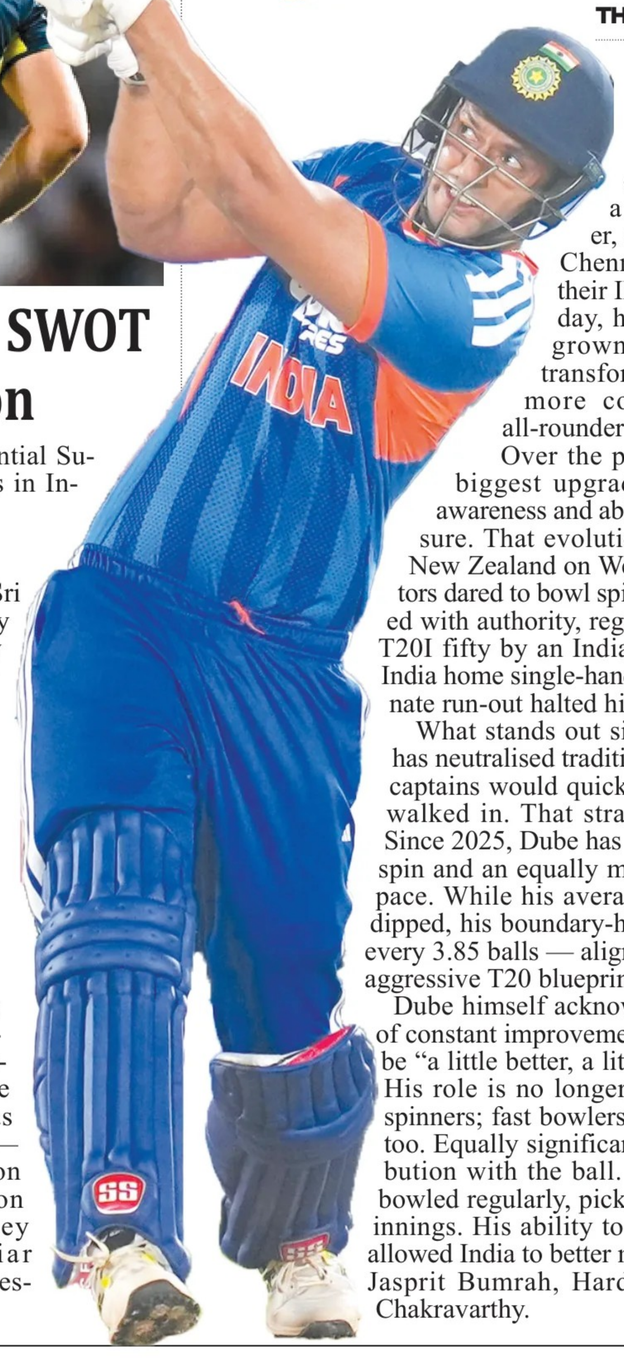
OPPORTUNITIES:
The absence of David Warner and Mitchell Starc marks a transition, but it also opens doors for players like Xavier Bartlett and Nathan Ellis to cement their places. Conditions in Sri Lanka offer Australia a chance to refine their spin-bowling combinations ahead of potential Super 8 matches in India.

THREATS:
Facing hosts Sri Lanka early and possibly India later could test Australia's adaptability against spin-heavy attacks. Another slow start could quickly derail their campaign.

Blending youth with experience, Australia enter the tournament as contenders — but redemption will depend on how well they plug familiar gaps under pressure.

Upskilled All-rounder Dube Emerges as Crucial Cog in India's T20 Wheel

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



When Shivam Dube returned to the Indian side nearly three years ago, his value was clearly defined. He was a middle-overs spin basher, a role he perfected with Chennai Super Kings during their IPL triumph in 2023. Today, however, Dube has outgrown that limited tag and transformed himself into a far more complete and reliable all-rounder for India.

Over the past 12 months, Dube's biggest upgrade has been his game awareness and ability to adapt under pressure. That evolution was evident against New Zealand on Wednesday when the visitors dared to bowl spin to him. Dube responded with authority, registering the third-fastest T20I fifty by an Indian and almost dragging India home single-handedly before an unfortunate run-out halted his charge.

What stands out since 2025 is how Dube has neutralised traditional match-ups. Earlier, captains would quickly turn to pace once he walked in. That strategy has lost its edge. Since 2025, Dube has struck at 193.54 against spin and an equally menacing 167.59 against pace. While his average against seamers has dipped, his boundary-hitting frequency — one every 3.85 balls — aligns perfectly with India's aggressive T20 blueprint.

Dube himself acknowledges the importance of constant improvement, stressing the need to be "a little better, a little smarter" each game. His role is no longer restricted to targeting spinners; fast bowlers are firmly in his sights too. Equally significant is his growing contribution with the ball. Since 2025, Dube has bowled regularly, picking up 20 wickets in 21 innings. His ability to chip in with overs has allowed India to better manage key bowlers like Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya and Varun Chakravarthy.

Gadecki, Peers Make History with Back-to-Back Aus Open Mixed Doubles Titles

MELBOURNE

Olivia Gadecki and John Peers etched their names into Australian Open history on Friday, becoming the first pair since 1989 to successfully defend the mixed doubles title with a stirring victory over France's Kristina Mladenovic and Manuel Guinard. Playing in front of an appreciative home crowd at Rod Laver Arena, the Australian wildcard duo recovered from a set down to win 4-6, 6-3, 10-8 in a tense final that swung on fine margins. Trailing 7-5 in the deciding match tiebreak, Gadecki and Peers showed remarkable composure, winning four of the next five points to seal a memorable triumph. On match point, with Peers serving, Guinard pushed a backhand into the net, sparking jubilant celebrations from the Australians, who kissed the trophy after clinching a rare back-to-back crown. Their achievement made them the first reigning Australian Open mixed doubles champions to return to — and win — the final the following year since Mladenovic herself partnered Daniel Nestor in 2015. The final began with the French pair taking the opening set after Peers sent a shot wide on their second set point, despite earlier nerves when Mladenovic double-faulted on set point and allowed the Australians to briefly stay alive. Gadecki and Peers responded strongly in the second set, breaking early to go 3-1 up and then dominating a crucial stretch, winning 13 of 15 points to level the contest.

City Hilights (English Daily) published by P. Sunil Kumar (Publisher) on behalf of Immaculate Broadcasting Consortium World News (P) Ltd., No. 18, JRV Court, Queens's Road, Bengaluru – 560001 and printed at Manipal Media Network Limited Opp. Govt School, Kempalinganahalli, Near Kunigal Cross, Nelamangala TQ, Bangalore Rural Dist. -562123, Printed at No-7/2 plot no.CA-3/1,28(p)&29(p) Kapanoor 2nd Stage Industrial Area Kapnoor Village Kalaburagi -585104. Printed at S. J. R. V. Printers, No. 208 Plot No. B-019 KSSIDC Industrial Area, Irfan Ahamed Khan Pathan, 4th Main Road Gamanagatti, Hubballi-Dharwad – 580025. and Elegant Offset Printers Pvt. Ltd. No. 5-61/1, Shed No. M-6, Yeyyadi Industrial Estate, Yeyyadi, Mangalore - 575 008. (RNI No: KARENG / 2015 / 63243), Regd. No. BGGPO-2581/2017-2019 Posted at Bengaluru PSO-560026 Email - cityhilights.news@gmail.com Phone: 080-41209042. Copyright. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited.